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PART III.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF NORTH AFRICA.

23

1882.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of North Africa:
1882.

PART III.

No. 1.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received January 3, 1882.)

(No. 108.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the translation of a letter I have received from a correspondent at Morocco reporting that a French force had entered the district of Figuig, and that hostilities had taken place with three Berber tribes and some Arabs under Bou Amama. Other tribes are assembling to oppose the French.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Letter addressed to Sir J. Drummond Hay from Morocco.

(Translation.)

NEWS from Taflelt, dated the 16th December, via Morocco.

The tribes El Amoor, Kanatas and Sebah, and Dwee Menaa, in the district of Figuig on the road to Ain Shair, report that a French force entered their territory and engaged in hostilities, and that a large body of Arabs joined the said tribes and attacked the French, who retreated, when the said tribes and Arabs pursued them for half-a-day.

Fighting was renewed for the whole of the next day, but neither side gained any advantage.

The tribes of Ait Atta and others are assembling to oppose the French.

These tidings have been received by the Court. Every day two or three couriers arrive.

The Sultan continues to write to the tribes who are of these dominions, and who are

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CONFIDENTIAL

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of North Africa:
1882.

PART III.

No. 1.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received January 3, 1882.)

(No. 108.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the translation of a letter I have received from a correspondent at Morocco reporting that a French force had entered the district of Figuig, and that hostilities had taken place with three Berber tribes and some Arabs under Bou Amama. Other tribes are assembling to oppose the French.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Letter addressed to Sir J. Drummond Hay from Morocco.

(Translation.)

NEWS from Taflet, dated the 16th December, via Morocco.

The tribes El Amoor, Kanata and Sobah, and Dwea Menaa, in the district of Figuig on the road to Ain Shair, report that a French force entered their territory and engaged in hostilities, and that a large body of Arabs joined the said tribes and attacked the French, who retreated, when the said tribes and Arabs pursued them for half-a-day.

Fighting was renewed for the whole of the next day, but neither side gained any advantage.

The tribes of Ait Atta and others are assembling to oppose the French.

These tidings have been received by the Court. Every day two or three couriers arrive.

The Sultan continues to write to the tribes who are of these dominions, and who are obedient to his rule, not to engage in hostilities with the French, and not to allow refugee Arabs from Algeria to enter the Morocco territory.

Bou Amama is with the Arabs to the north of Figuig, who have been fighting against the French.

No. 2.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received January 3, 6 A.M.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, January 2, 1882, 2-40 P.M.

GOVERNOR of Hamemet, who had come to Tunis for investigation of the circumstances under which an Arab dependant of British Consulate was arrested and shot, has returned to his post, and is getting up evidence that the man was not arrested on British ground.

Consular Agent says that he can produce evidence in proof of the outrage if inquiry were held on the spot.

I venture to suggest that an officer of this Consulate may be sent to conduct such investigation, in which case I would ask for the necessary facilities from the Tunis Government.

No. 3.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received January 3, 5-30 P.M.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, January 3, 1882.

M. ROUSTAN arrived here on the 31st ultimo.

A speech he delivered to French subjects on New Year's Day has had a disquieting effect. He is proud of the post, and determined to persevere in the policy till now pursued. Yesterday he demanded justice from the Bey in the matter of Sy Taib Bey's allegations, as related in my despatch No. 115, Confidential, of the 25th November.

No. 4.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 3, 1882.

I HAVE remitted to the Law Advisers of the Crown your despatch No. 144 of the 24th November, in which you call my attention to a notice circulated in Tunis by the French military authorities, advertising for tenders for the supply of their troops, the acceptance of tenders from foreigners being made conditional on their submitting to French jurisdiction, both criminal and civil.

I have to instruct you, if any cases should come to your knowledge of British subjects who are about to enter into contracts with the French Government, to warn them that consent will not be given to their submitting themselves to French criminal jurisdiction; you should, at the same time, intimate to the French authorities that you have done so.

It will not, however, be necessary to publish any notice to this effect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 5.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received January 3.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

Paris, January 4, 1882.

IN a despatch dated the 27th ultimo, and marked No. 106, which passed through my hands the day before yesterday, Sir Drummond Hay forwarded to your Lordship a report which he had received from a correspondent at Morocco, to the effect that a French force had entered the district of Figuig, and had had an engagement with three Herber tribes and a large body of Arabs.

I brought this intelligence to M. Gambetta's notice this afternoon, and asked him if he would give me any information on the subject.

He answered that he had not heard of anything of the kind, and that he thought it extremely unlikely that any French force had crossed the frontier of Morocco. He had, indeed, received the intelligence that marauders had entered the French territory from Morocco, but he had no reason to suppose that the French on their side had

penetrated into Morocco. It was, he said, very well known that he himself was strongly opposed to anything of the kind.

At my request he promised to make special inquiries on the subject of the report to which I had called his attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 6.

Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. to Sir Charles W. Dilke.—(Received January 6.)

Sir,

Liverpool, January 5, 1882.

WE had the honour to address you on the 14th November last with reference to our losses at Sfax, and the position in which we were placed at Gabes. Our manager having just returned to Susa, after passing some weeks at Gabes (where he had previously been refused permission to land by the French), we now beg to inclose you a detailed statement made up by him of our losses at that place through the French occupation. As we have previously informed you, the whole of our premises and possessions were intact until the French landed, and no fighting took place at that point.

The French military authorities still hold possession of our inclosed ground and premises, which they refuse to give up; and in order to carry on our legitimate business, we have been obliged to purchase a piece of land in the vicinity, and will require to lay out a serious amount for the purpose of inclosing it, and of putting up the necessary buildings for our trade.

As no Commission has been appointed as yet to assess the damages suffered at Gabes, we shall be glad to learn whether it is necessary for us to get any independent testimony or certificates as to our losses at that place.

We have, &c.
(Signed) PERRY, BURY, AND CO.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Claim No. 2 (Gabes).—STATEMENT of Claims for Losses sustained by Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co., in consequence of Insurrection in the Regency of Tunis, and in consequence of the French Army taking possession of the Yard of Gabes, which was intact till their landing.

	Piastres.
420 metres of fencing round yard	5,040
3 double gates and single gates	1,330
2 wooden movable rooms outside yard	650
5 spare chains for presses	800
220 pieces palm-wood, at 2½ piastres	575
21 weighing beams (Statores)	1,575
9 tarpaulins (3 small and 4 large)	6,800
3 tripods for weighing	100
2 wheel-barrows, for bales	180
6 ditto, for carrying loose grass, at 50 piastres	300
4 hand-carts	500
3 boxes for ditto, for carrying loose grass	90
2 hand-cutting machines	240
4 punching machines, with 500 spare teeth	1,100
1 spare windlass, for the presses	350
4 spare levers, for ditto	100
36 pieces beech-wood	148
6 Swedish planks	132
28 Tavolet Frame ditto	84
36 bags lime	216
4 sleeping benches in brokers' rooms	100
30 lbs. hemp rope	75
20 yards canvas	80
90 esparto ropes	67
65 lbs. linseed oil	60
5 barrels nails	250
6 tins of paint, about 50 lbs. each	375
Several joiners' tools, digging implements, and tools for presses	150
2 heavy benches for punching and cutting hoops	150
1 iron bed with spring mattress, also woollen mattress and 2 pillows	450

	Piastres.
2 sleeping benches, with their mattress and covers	200
2 copying letter-presses	200
1 wardrobe	200
5 guns, double-barrelled	625
1 iron safe	200
1 case containing 22 spare window-panes for rooms	85
1 sleeping, 1 table, 8 large jars for water	160
2 chairs, saucepans, knives, &c., all in kitchen	45
1 cupboard	80
1 large table, 1 Galca's room, 2 tables in brokers' room	240
6 casks for water	1,600
80 stones (Keddol)	2,700
A quantity of stones	200
200 bundles hoop-iron (7½ tons)	320
2 bags rivets	150
4 bags buttons	1,200
1 spare cylinder for windlass of presses	220
Spare castings for ditto	90
22 metres fencing before office	30
30 mats	144
1 stand for copying press	120
1 anchor and rope for raft	160
Printed books for receipts, &c.	120
4 cages for weighing esparto	300
Harness (cart)	200
Stable	150
Wood in reserve	150
Bolts, pins, and pieces wrought-iron in reserve for presses	150
2 spare rails for same	150
Spare india-rubber for presses	45
Hemp rope for bales (pulling down)	60
2 hooked chains for presses and windlasses	100
Kennels and benches	50
Stationery for office	75
50 empty sacks	50
2 wrenches	30
10 hammers	40
Nippers and long steel punches for closing hoops	20
2 crowbars	150
150 spare links	18
12 wooden forks	45
3 stools for weighers	25
1 American clock	10
1 spirit level	30
Anvils for joining hoops on	120
6 ladders	50
Empty barrels and boxes	18
2 keys for opening bales	1,000
2 stone rooms (damaged)	800
1 stone kitchen (ditto)	900
3 wooden rooms (ditto)	200
1 ditto (for cutting hoops)	300
2 wooden gunrooms (damaged)	6,000
2 American presses (broken and smashed)	3,000
Extra labours to gather loose grass scattered in all directions by the soldiers to make huts, barricades, bedding, &c.	9,670
Loss on 7,736 ers. of esparto brought to Sfax, part much damaged, and all bales loose, been obliged to repack them; also loss on weight in repacking and transporting from Gabes, and deterioration of quality	5,000
Wages of our agent there to collect esparto which had been saved	1,800
Assistant of ditto, ditto, at 300 piastres	1,500
Broker, ditto, ditto, at 300 piastres	1,200
2 guards, ditto, ditto, at 100 piastres	1,000
Damages on ground by troops digging trenches and unlevelling it	800
Several notes of protest, &c.	40,150
Esports used by French for bedding, huts, and other purposes, and part burnt, found short, as shown by books, 4,015 ers.	140
1 washing, 20 stands, and 12 chairs	300
4 mattresses and 6 pillows in the brokers' rooms	

103,511

Exchange at 40 = 2,637½ 15s. 6d.

No. 7.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received January 9.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, January 4, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 431, Confidential, of the 30th November last, reporting the substance of what I had heard from M. Mancini relative to an instruction which he had addressed to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Paris respecting the abrupt closing of the Sfax Commission by the French President of it, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Mancini informed me a few days ago that he had received the reply of the French Government upon this subject, which was to the effect that they regarded the Commission as definitively closed.

M. Mancini added, in a tone of great irritation, that M. Gambetta had offered to pay a certain sum of money, as a gratuity, to the Italian Government, by way of settling any claims they might have in connection with the bombardment of Sfax, an offer which he looked upon as almost insulting to the Italian Government, and which it was his intention to reject in terms which he hoped would convince M. Gambetta that he ought never to have made it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 8.

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received January 9.)

L'AMBASSADE de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie à Londres n'étant trouvée dans le cas d'informer à plusieurs reprises le Gouvernement Royal que le Gouvernement de la Reine n'avait pas été saisi de demandes en dommages-intérêts de la part des familles de sujets Britanniques tués en Tunisie pendant les derniers événements, le Consul d'Italie à Tunis vient de faire observer au Ministre Royal des Affaires Étrangères que cette allégation n'est pas entièrement correcte. Des réclamations de cette nature auraient été, en effet, adressées en assez grand nombre à l'Agent d'Angleterre à Tunis, et celui-ci se serait empressé de les transmettre au Bey avec des lettres d'accompagnement. Il en aurait ensuite référé au Foreign Office par un Rapport Général.

Londres, le 7 Janvier, 1882.

No. 9.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received January 10.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 1.)

My Lord,

Tunis, January 2, 1882.

IT has come to my knowledge that the Governor of Hammamet, who had come to Tunis to assist at an investigation into the circumstances under which an Arab dependent of the British Consular Agent at that place was lately arrested and shot, has returned to his post, and is getting up evidence that the arrest did not take place on British ground. The Consular Agent maintains that, if an inquiry were held on the spot, he could prove the contrary. I venture, therefore, to suggest that an officer of this Consulate may be directed to proceed to Hammamet and investigate the matter, in which case I would ask for the necessary facilities from the Tunisian Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 10.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received January 10.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 2.)

My Lord,

Tunis, January 3, 1882.

M. ROUSTAN arrived in Tunis on the 31st ultimo. At a reception of French subjects held on the first day of the new year, he delivered a speech which has had a disquieting effect. Referring to his past career in this country in terms of pride, he declared his determination to persevere in the policy he had till now pursued. Yesterday he called on the Bey and demanded that the Prince Sy Taieb Bey may be called to account for the allegations he had made regarding him as reported in my despatch No. 115, Confidential, of the 25th November last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 11.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, January 12, 1882.

YOUR further letter to Sir Charles Dilke of the 5th instant referring to the losses sustained by you at Sfax, and the state of affairs as regards your interests at Gabos, has been laid before Earl Granville, and I am directed by his Lordship to inform you that the subject of claims arising out of the insurrection in Tunis and the measures taken for its suppression is under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

A further communication on the subject will be addressed to you hereafter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 12.

Mr. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 7, 1882.

I HAVE this day read to his Excellency the Minister of State your Lordship's despatch No. 163 of the 27th ultimo, and the despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris which it incloses, reporting the assurances given by M. Gambetta on the subject of Morocco.

The Marques de la Vega de Armijo admitted that nothing could be more explicit, and that, as "M. Gambetta pouvait ce qu'il voulait," his declarations must be regarded as satisfactory.

His Excellency, moreover, seemed pleased at my having been officially instructed to make this communication to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 13.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord,

Paris, January 12, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that I had yesterday some further conversation with M. Gambetta respecting the question of the house tax in Egypt.

M. Gambetta told me that he had reason to believe that the immediate difficulty between M. Sioukiewics and Chérif Pasha had subsided. He had not received all the information necessary to enable him to form an opinion as to the merits of the claim of the Tunisians in Egypt to exemption from the tax, but to his mind a principal element in the question was what claims they had possessed as residents in Egypt before they were placed under the protection of the French Consuls.

M. Gambetta went on to say that he was collecting materials to enable him to come to a definite opinion on the position in which Tunisians abroad were placed by the VIth Article of the Treaty of the Bardo. This Article provided that the Diplomatic and Consular Agents of France in foreign countries should be charged with the protection of the interests and of the subjects of the Regency. Now, as at present advised, M. Gambetta could not, as a jurist, say that the Article conferred upon Tunisians the special privileges enjoyed by French citizens in foreign countries under Treaties or Capitulations. He was, however, examining the question; and in the meantime, it did not appear that the affairs of the house tax in Egypt was still a cause of practical difficulty.

I observed that an analogy might be found in the not unfrequent cases in which the Diplomatic and Consular Agents of one Power took charge, though in general only temporarily, of the protection of the subjects of another Power; but I added that I had no authority to discuss the Article of the Treaty of the Bardo, and I reminded M. Gambetta that all I had been instructed to do was to represent to him the immediate inconvenience of allowing the affair of the house tax in Egypt to be mixed up with the question of the protection of Tunisians in that country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 14.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

Paris, January 12, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I reminded M. Gambetta yesterday of his promise to make special inquiries on the subject of the report that a French force had entered the district of Figuig, and had had an engagement with certain tribes on the Morocco territory.

M. Gambetta answered that he had made every inquiry, and that he had found nothing whatever to confirm the report in question.

He added, however, that though nothing of the kind appeared to have happened in the past, he could not help feeling uneasy about the future. Arab marauders seemed to be disposed to make incursions from Morocco into Algeria, and then to place themselves in security behind the Morocco frontier. It became very important, therefore, that the Sovereign of Morocco should not only have the will to prevent such incursions, but should provide the means of doing so. I reminded M. Gambetta of the assurance he had given me of the positive intention of the French Government to respect the territory of Morocco, and I expressed a hope that we should be spared the calamity of an international Morocco question.

He replied that his sentiments on the subject were well known to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 15.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1882.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 9 of the 4th instant, I have to inform you that I approve your having called the attention of M. Gambetta to the report mentioned in Sir J. D. Hay's despatch No. 108 of the 27th ultimo, that French troops had crossed the frontier of Morocco.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 16.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1882.

WITH reference to your Excellency's note verbale of the 7th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government have not hitherto received any information as to claims for compensation being put forward by relations of British subjects killed during the course of recent events in Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, Barchin, January 3, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Vall has just received a letter from the Kaïmakam of Ghadames reporting the murder of three French missionaries whilst on their way from that place to Ghat, alleging they had undertaken against the advice of the local Government, and after signing a declaration that they did so at their own risk and peril.

They were accompanied by three Arabs of the Shamka, an Algerian border tribe, who returned to Ghadames, and reported that, when at a distance of about a day's journey from Ghat, they had been attacked by a party of seven Tuaries, who had killed the missionaries, having first bound the escort, whom they afterwards released and allowed to return to Ghadames.

There may, therefore, be some doubt as to whether the priests met their death at the hands of the Tuaries or of their escort.

The Vall, after informing the French Consul-General of the news he had received, sent orders to the Kaïmakam of Ghadames to endeavour to discover and arrest the murderers, and to send the Shamka men under escort to Tripoli.

The priests, who belonged to the order of the Trappists, had been for some months resident, together with three others, at Ghadames, the head-quarters of the mission in this country being at Tripoli, where they established themselves in the summer of 1880. The object of this mission has ever been somewhat of a mystery, and it is generally believed to be one rather of a political nature, and possibly connected with the design which has been for some time attributed to the French Government of endeavouring to divert to Algiers or Tunis the valuable and fast-increasing trade between North Central Africa and Europe, of which Tripoli has hitherto been the port, the trade-caravans passing by Ghat, Ghadames, and Fozzan, to and from this port.

It is possible the French Government may consider the assassination of these missionaries, taken in conjunction with the massacre of Colonel Flatters' expedition in the same region by the Tuaries, in the early part of last year, as a good pretext for sending a military expedition in that direction.

Such an expedition might possibly lead to complications, in which the ill-defined frontier of this province might be likely to prove a dangerous element.

The murder of the French missionaries at this moment can cause no surprise, for after recent events in Tunis it would be extremely dangerous for any Europeans to travel amongst the nomadic tribes of the desert, whilst for Frenchmen it must be almost certain death to go amongst them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 18.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, January 17, 1882.

SID TAÏB, the Bey's brother, was arrested during past night, and conducted prisoner to the Bardo by the Minister of War and a detachment of native cavalry.

The Prince's villa continues to be surrounded by the Bey's troops, and all the roads leading to it are closed to the public. This event has given rise to a painful impression throughout the country.

Whilst the above telegram was in course of preparation, Sy Zacharia, arrested Prince's son-in-law, came to my house, for the purpose of seeking refuge and soliciting the intercession of Her Majesty's Government in favour of his father-in-law, but I have prevailed on him to quit the Consular premises, and acceded only to his urgent solicitation that I should bring all these occurrences to the knowledge of your Lordship.

No. 19.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 70.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 19, 1882.

I APPROVE the language which your Excellency held to M. Gambetta on the subject of the alleged entry of French troops into Morocco, as reported in your despatch No. 32 of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 20.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 10, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Ordega, who has been appointed French Minister in the place of M. de Vernouillet, arrived here on the 3rd instant.

M. Gasparay, Chief Dragoman, who is appointed in the place of M. Heequard, transferred to Tripoli, and M. Bertrand, Dragoman-Chancellor of the Legation, have also arrived.

M. Ordega tells me that he has been instructed to maintain friendly relations with the Sultan, and, in his meeting with M. Heequard, would not return in any official capacity to Morocco, but would continue to act as a Legation Secretary.

M. de la Boulinière, the Secretary of Legation, who arrived here last June, remains.

M. Ordega, in the course of conversation, said that M. Gambetta had particularly requested him to keep on good terms with myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 21.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received January 24.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 3.)

My Lord,

Tunis, January 17, 1882.

SID TAÏB, the Bey's brother, was arrested during the past night by a detachment of native cavalry, under the command of the Minister of War, and conducted prisoner to the Bardo. The Prince's villa at the Marsa continues to be surrounded by the Bey's troops, and all roads leading to it are closed to the public.

A very painful impression has been created by this arrest throughout the whole country, Sid Taïb being held in high general esteem.

While the above communication was being prepared for transmission by telegraph, the Prince's son-in-law, Sid Zacharia, came to my house, seeking refuge for his own person, and soliciting the intercession of Her Majesty's Government in favour of his father-in-law, but, after some delay, I prevailed on him to leave the Consular premises, where his continued presence would have been a source of constant irritation.

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to the powers that be, and only acceded to his urgent request that I should bring all these occurrences to your Lordship's knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 22

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

Tuesd. Jan. 17, 1882.

M. ORDEGA and the members of the French Legation dined with me yesterday. In the course of conversation M. Ordega informed me that he intended to proceed to the Moorish Court to present his credentials to the Sultan, and to impress on His Majesty the necessity of taking energetic steps to prevent the tribes dwelling on the frontier, and also the Algerine Arabs who have sought refuge in Morocco, from violating French territory. M. Ordega added that it was the anxious desire of the French Government to maintain friendly relations with the Sultan, and to respect his independence and the integrity of his dominions, that his Government had no ambitious projects regarding Morocco, and that he could clearly and formally declare that no attempt would be made to pursue a course such as had led to late events in Tunis.

M. Ordega observed that he spoke out frankly to me, for he thought our respective Governments had a common interest in maintaining the *status quo* in Morocco, and at the same time of doing what they could to promote commerce.

I remark that I entirely coincided with him; that our two countries ought not to have
 not to his views in Mexico, and that as long as neither entertained ambitious views we
 should, by the force, be enabled to pursue an amicable policy in making such friendly
 arrangements to regulate the Southern boundary and the Gulf, thus turning the
 thoughts of as wild and sanguinary people, from blood and war to peaceful
 occupations, and I added that the best guarantee for tranquillity would be that the two
 Governments should be contented with the American frontier should entirely turn their
 attention to civil and commercial concerns.

With regard to his (M. Orkady's) intention of pressing upon the Sultan the necessity of his recalling the tribes dwelling near the frontier to respect the French territory, I observe that I had never received any assurance of his intentions in regard to your Lordship, to remind His Majesty that his power and authority actually was confined to require that he should take every step in his power to prevent his subjects, and also those tribes who have emigrated to his dominions, from committing acts of aggression on the French territory—that I felt every reason to believe the Sultan was annoyed with an earnest desire for peace, and knew perfectly well the danger of pressing the cause of contest with his own weakness, and the error that it was His Majesty's true and only policy to give no start to a people that he would be ready to accept of any reasonable terms, as he (M. Orkady) may put forward in his private conversations, but, I added, the position of the Sultan is very critical now, he has no troops at his command, which he could dispatch to the frontier to maintain order, and to prevent the tribes dwelling in the desert districts, or to compel them to respect the Moroccan territory, that at the present I organized state of the Moroccan army it would be a serious misfortune if the Sultan from necessity or want of going to the field for displeasure to the French Government, dispatched a force to the desert, as he felt that the Moorish troops would certainly be routed by the Hardy and warlike tribes of that district, or even they might be induced to desert to Bou Amama or to the Sultan. Such an event, I said, might lead to a general rising, even of the tribes now submissive to the Sultan, against his authority, and thus a state of anarchy would follow throughout Morocco, and the lives and property of Christians and Jews would be placed in the greatest jeopardy.

M. Ordegn said he was aware the Sultan's authority over the tribes dwelling on the south-eastern frontier was of a very dubious character, but that he thought His Majesty might, as the "Emir" or Spiritual Chief of his subjects, assume a more decided sway over them than he had hitherto attempted to exercise.

I observed that it would be a very delicate task for the Sultan to promulgate an Edict, as "Emir," calling upon his subjects to abstain from hostilities against the Christians, for such a step might be taken advantage of by Bon Amama, or other hostile Chief, to issue a counter-proclamation, that Sultan Mulai Hassan was the friend of the Christians, and, therefore, an enemy to the "faithful."

I informed M. Ordega that there were vague rumours afloat that Bou Amama and other Arab Chiefs were about to bring forward a Shercef from Tafelt, a relative of Mulai Hassan, as a pretender to the throne, and that any rash step taken by His Majesty might promote the views of those who are said to be plotting against him.

M Ordega said that M. Tissot had informed the Government at Paris that there was an active "propaganda" going on in Turkey, Egypt, and Tripoli for the regeneration of the Mahommedan power throughout Asia and Africa, and he inquired whether I had heard that agents had been sent to this country for a similar purpose; that he thought the British Government, as well as the French, had a common interest in watching such a fanatical agitation, which, if it assumed any practical form, might seriously affect their possessions in Africa and those of Great Britain in Asia.

I replied that I did not think that agents for such a purpose had as yet been sent to the northern provinces of Morocco, but that it is reported an agitation of this kind has commenced in the south-eastern districts of the Empire, where Bou Amama and other Chiefs who have fled from Algeria and Tunis are now dwelling. I remarked that many Mahommedans believe that in the year 1300 of the Hegira, which commences in November of this year, the "Mehedy," or their Messiah, is to appear, and then that the regeneration of the Mahommedans would take place, and that they would regain an ascendancy in those countries where the Mahommedans have been subjected to Christian rule; but that, up to the present time, I did not think that any great excitement or feelings of animosity towards Christians had been roused by this prophecy in Morocco.

M. Ordega informed me that he intended to proceed to the Moorish Court in the middle of March, and expected that a Government vessel would be sent to convey him and his suite to Mazagan or other convenient port, so as to avoid the long land journey from Tangier. I said that I had a general instruction to visit annually the Moorish Court, that I did not go last year, but that I thought it was very probable I might have to visit the Sultan shortly, as I had been directed to negotiate the revision of the Commercial Convention of 1856, that Cid Mohammed Bargash had been empowered to treat with me, but that from my experience of his timidity and hesitation in coming to a decision even on the most trivial question, I expected that the negotiation would be protracted unless I could bring the Sultan himself to understand that a reduction in duties would not necessarily lead to a reduction in revenue, but, on the contrary, to an increase in trade, and thereby to the wealth, prosperity, and revenue of the country.

I observed that, as he was going to present his credentials, and had the important mission of seeking to come to a better understanding with the Sultan for the preservation of peace, and as I knew some difficulty had been experienced by the Sultan in receiving more than one Mission at a time at the city of Morocco, I should wish to avoid giving His Majesty to inconvenience by my visit, which was not of such a pressing nature as his own.

M. Ordega observed that it would be a source of satisfaction to him, if it could be managed, that I visited the Court about the same time as himself, for he felt persuaded that I was a more likely candidate for the Salazar prize than himself, on account of the maintenance of peaceful relations with France, which state would be likely to support the suggestion I might have to make for the improvement of the Court.

I replied that I should be very happy to read the letter, but that I did not know whether the Majesty's Government would provide me with a salary for my teaching and family.⁴⁰ But the second letter, dated 14 July 1853, was more positive and, for the first time,

I mentioned that when M. Tissot visited the Sultan in 1873 I was also at the Moorish Court, and that, as M. Tissot entertained similar views to those he had now expressed regarding the identity of policy which France and Great Britain ought to have in this country, we had carried them into practice, and had astonished the Sultan and his Ministers by presenting simultaneously identical notes on matters connected with trade and the introduction of improvements and reform, and in our joint visits to the Vizir had echoed views and counsels regarding the policy to be pursued by the Sultan and his Government. I said that it was a pleasure to me to find that he (M. Ordega) was disposed to be as frank and friendly as M. Tissot.

I mentioned to M. Ordega that the revised draft of the Convention of Commerce did not contain any new stipulations, except those which were based on the Convention of Madrid, and an Article regarding the coasting trade; that as steamers under the French and British flags were almost the only vessels engaged in conducting the trade with Morocco, I should be happy to consult with him regarding the terms of the stipulation in question, so that it might be framed in a manner to suit the interests of navigation of both countries.

and that I hoped thereby to obtain his support in obtaining this concession from the Sultan for the mutual advantage of both countries and the general interests of trade and the Moorish population.

M. Ordega replied that he would always be ready to support measures which would lead to the improvement of navigation and trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 23.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 16)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 26, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 79 of the 19th November last, and No. 103 of the 27th ultimo, and to your Lordship's despatch No. 4 of the 17th instant, transmitting the copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, in which his Excellency informs your Lordship that M. Gambetta has stated that "he thought it extremely unlikely that any French force had crossed the frontier of Morocco, and that he was strongly opposed to anything of the kind," I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I received yesterday a further letter from Morocco, in which the writer repeats the information he had already given, that a French force had entered the Moorish territory, but that, having encountered a large body of Berbers and Arabs, they had been compelled to retreat, and that they had not recrossed the frontier.

I am not surprised to learn that M. Gambetta had denied that a French force had crossed the frontier, for I do not think that the French Government, or their Commanders in Algeria, acknowledge the frontier which was marked after the war between France and Morocco of 1845 as being that by which they are to be guided at the present time.*

The town or village of Isch, called by the Arabs El Arisch, is marked in the French map published in 1848 by the "Département de la Guerre" as being situated within the Moorish territory, yet several French journals had announced, in the month of November last, that a French force had entered if not been stationed at that site.

The Sultan distinctly declares that El Arisch and all the territory to the south are situated within his dominions, and that no concession of territory has been made to the French by him or by his predecessors since the year 1818.

I think it is not improbable that the French troops, which are reported to have entered the district near Figuig, were a reconnoitring party, perhaps of native Algerine troops, who retired before superior forces.

As the French Government has given such categorical assurances to Her Majesty's Government regarding their intention to respect the integrity of the Sultan's territory, and as Isch and Figuig are districts where the Sultan's authority is of a very feeble character, I do not think it would be advisable to raise any further question upon what may have taken place, particularly as it would appear the French force had withdrawn, after ascertaining that any attempt to penetrate into the Moorish territory south of Figuig would require a much larger force than that which is now stationed near the Algerine frontier.†

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 24.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9)

(No. 17. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 31, 1882.

I RECEIVED this morning a letter from Cid Boobeker at Morocco, dated the 14th January, of which I have the honour to transmit a translation, reporting that a

* See No. 9th of November 1881. J. H. D. H.

† In the year 1770, 5,000 French troops entered the Figuig district, and penetrated as far as "Au Shair." They were surrounded by a very numerous force of Arab and Berber tribes. A truce was agreed upon, the conditions were that they should retire and not injure the palm trees, and that barley should be given by the inhabitants to feed the French troops, who were short of provisions. This check was kept secret by the French authorities.—J. H. D. H.

further engagement had taken place between a French force, which had advanced in the direction of Figuig, and some Morocco tribes; that the latter had been defeated, and that a considerable amount of property had fallen into the hands of the French, who, it was reported, were advancing towards Taflelt.

Cid Boobeker says that the Vizir had sent for him to express his surprise that, after the assurances given by the French Government to the British and Spanish Governments, the former should have committed these aggressions within the Morocco territory.

On the receipt of this letter I called upon M. Ordega and informed him that I had received unpleasant tidings from Morocco.

M. Ordega, interrupting me, said, "I suppose a conflict has taken place in the Morocco territory." I replied in the affirmative, and inquired if he had received tidings of a similar character from Algeria.

He said he had not, but that in a late communication he had received he had been informed that General Delebecq, who commanded an army division in the southern Province of Algeria, had complained of the hostile attitude of the Moorish tribes, who were in league with Bou Amama, and that he would be compelled, if this "intolerable" state of affairs continued, to march into the Morocco territory south of Beni-Matar, as Article IV of the Treaty of 1845 between France and Morocco sanctioned such a step, if the Sultan could not restrain his subjects from acts of hostility. "I inferred, therefore," continued M. Ordega, "when you mentioned that you had unpleasant tidings, that General Delebecq had been compelled by circumstances to carry out his threat."

I asked M. Ordega if he would show me the 14th Article of the Treaty referred to. He said he had it not at hand, but that, as far as he could recollect, it granted the right of the French to enter the territory south of Beni-Matar, and directed at Figuig.

Since my visit to M. Ordega I have obtained a copy of the Article in question, which I annex.

M. Ordega informed me that he expected to receive to-day despatches by the French packet from Algeria, and that he would be happy to let me know if the tidings I had received were confirmed.

I told M. Ordega that I should not attach any great importance to a conflict between a French force and the wild tribes who inhabited districts where the Sultan had little or no power of control, were it not to be apprehended that a defeat of the Morocco tribes might arouse generally a hostile feeling towards the Sultan on the part of his fanatical subjects, who were already disposed to look upon His Majesty rather as the ally of the Christian than as "the Defender of their Faith," as His Majesty is styled, that his position would become very critical if a French force advanced into Figuig, and that it appeared to me that it would be preferable for the French Government and French Generals to put up with the extreme inconvenience which, I admitted, was caused by Bou Amama and other Chiefs, than to incur the risk of the disastrous consequences which might ensue if the Sultan lost all power of control over his subjects throughout those parts of his dominions where Europeans still enjoyed a certain degree of security.

M. Ordega said he concurred in great measure with my views, and had written in that sense to the Government at Paris. He expressed also his satisfaction that I had received tidings that the Sultan, notwithstanding the alleged conflict, had sent orders to Taflelt of a pacific character, proving that His Majesty sincerely desired to avoid a rupture of relations with France.

I received a private note this evening from M. Ordega, of which I inclose a copy, and I further received from Oran the accompanying extracts from French journals, which bear out the substance of the tidings received by the Sultan from Taflelt, or an exaggerated account of the conflicts, which, I may observe, there is little doubt have taken place on the Morocco territory, though the French forces may have withdrawn to Algeria, and not advanced towards Taflelt, as the terrified inhabitants of that town had chosen to report.

I did not let M. Ordega know that my correspondent was Cid Boobeker, who is in constant oral communication both with the Sultan and the Vizir, and I have to beg that it be kept secret from the French Government, as I have reason to know that in the time of M. de Vernoullet attempts were made to induce the Sultan to withdraw his confidence from Cid Boobeker, but failed, or I should have been deprived of an important channel for obtaining information.

If the reports given by Cid Boobeker are sometimes incorrect or exaggerated, it

is not that he sends me idle rumours he hears from unofficial persons, but rather that the Sultan and his Ministers give credence to, and impart to him, the exaggerated accounts which they receive from Taffelt or other parts regarding the proceedings of the French.

I shall direct Cid Boobekeer to let the Sultan and the Vizir know that I have reasons to suppose the late accounts they have received were exaggerated, and that I trust the Sultan will continue to do all in his power to restrain his subjects from joining Bou Amama and other Chiefs in hostilities against the French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—I beg to draw your Lordship's especial attention to the passage underlined in the inclosed extract from the Oran papers, and which are said to be inspired by military authorities. They tend to show that military men in Algeria do not consider the serious consequences and complications which might ensue if the Government at Paris is induced to act upon their views.

J. H. D. H.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Cid Boobekeer to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

January 14, 1882.

INFORMATION has been received to-day by our Lord the Sultan from Taffelt that a very large French force has arrived near to Figuig. An engagement took place with the tribes of Amoor, Doonenna, and Renadasata, and the tribes were defeated with great losses and their property seized.

The tribes were completely routed, losing a large number of men, and the French were advancing towards Taffelt.

The Vizir sent for me and said, "After the assurances given by the French Government to the British and Spanish Governments that their troops would not penetrate into the territory of the Sultan, what are we to understand by these proceedings?" He said, "The Sultan has never ceased to urge his subjects to abstain from hostilities, and still desires peace." This affair, it is to be feared, may assume more serious proportions, for the French have remained there in great force, and the Arabs are terrified from the effect produced by the artillery.

The Sultan has written to the inhabitants of Taffelt to compel the followers of Bou Amama to quit, and not to allow them to visit the markets.

You may feel assured all that I have related is correct, and matters are becoming every day more serious.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Article IV of the French Treaty of 1845.

DANS le Sahara (désert) il n'y a pas de limite territoriale à établir entre les deux pays, puisque la terre n'est ni arable, ni cultivable, et qu'elle sert seulement de pâturage aux Arabes des deux Empires qui viennent y camper pour y trouver les pâturages et les eaux qui leur sont nécessaires.

Les deux Souverains exerceront de la manière qu'ils l'entendront toute la plénitude de leurs droits sur leurs sujets respectifs dans le Sahara. Et, tout fois, si l'un des deux Souverains avait à procéder contre ses sujets ou à punir ceux qui se sont rendus coupables avec ceux de l'autre État, il procédera comme il l'entendra sur les siens, mais il s'abstiendra envers les sujets de l'autre Gouvernement.

Ceux des Arabes qui dépendent de l'Empire du Maroc sont les M'Erba, les Beni Guel, les Hamian Djemba, les Eumors Sahara, et les Ouled Sidi Cheik el Gharaba.*

Ceux des Arabes qui dépendent de l'Algérie sont les Ouled Sidi Cheik el Cloraga,† et tous les Hamians, excepté les Hamians Djemba susnommés.

* Occidentaux.

† "Orientaux."

No. 24*.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 153.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 10, 1882

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tunis, relative to a claim brought by Mr. T. L. Smith, a British subject residing at Matu, in Tunis, against the French Government for damage done to his crops by the French troops in May last.*

From Mr. Reade's despatches Nos. 74 and 75 on this subject, which I forwarded to your Excellency in my despatches No. 546 of the 10th, and No. 587 of the 22nd June last you will have learnt that the French authorities began by accusing Mr. Smith of inciting the Arabs against their proceedings and requesting his removal from Matu, and that although those accusations turned out to be groundless, he did, on the recommendation of Her Majesty's Consul-General, although at great inconvenience to himself, consent to remain absent from his farm for some time. From his own account of what occurred, as given in the inclosure in Mr. Reade's despatch No. 76, it appears that he requested the General in command to restrain his troops from destroying the crops, and that that officer offered him compensation, which he declined at the time. But on finding that the soldiers persisted in their conduct, he formulated a claim for indemnity in July, although it was not until the 10th November, as your Excellency will perceive from the despatch which I inclose, that he decided to allow Mr. Reade to forward it to the French Legation. A claim for 354*l.* for damage to his property and losses through absence from his farm was thereupon sent in to M. Roustan, but has been rejected by him on the ground that it was a stale demand, and that the lapse of time since the damage was committed would prevent a proper assessment from being made.

It appears, however, to Her Majesty's Government, that Mr. Smith did sustain some damage to his crops, and that at one time there was a willingness on the part of the French authorities, to make him some compensation. No doubt the delay which has taken place may possibly render it less easy to estimate the damage with accuracy. But it hardly seems a ground for altogether and at once rejecting the claim, as the French Minister did in his correspondence with Mr. Reade.

I have accordingly to request your Excellency to bring the matter before the French Government, with a view to its reconsideration and the payment of some compensation, or to a reference of the claim to arbitration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

M. Ordega to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

Mon cher Collègue,

Légation de France, Maroc, January 31, 1882

DANS les dépêches officielles que je viens de recevoir en date du 25, il n'y a rien qui confirme l'avis que vous avez reçu du Maroc. Nos troupes se sont jusqu'ici abstenues de poursuivre les rebelles sur le territoire Chérifi et ont tout fait de le respecter, autant que peut permettre l'incertitude d'une frontière laissée indécise par les Traités sur de grands espaces et variable comme les mouvements des tribus nomades qui l'habitent.

Je suis persuadé que la nouvelle qui vous est parvenue ne doit se rapporter qu'à quelques engagements sur la frontière.

(Signé) L. ORDEGA.

No. 25.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received February 14.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, February 11, 1882.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of Earl Granville, extracts from a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, dated the 1st instant, respecting the state of affairs at Tripoli.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

February 1, 1882

THE "Pittier" was at Tripoli on the 29th ultimo, and was to leave on the following day for Malta. Commander Pusey's Report of Proceedings contains the following notes of interest respecting Tripoli and the neighbourhood:—

"I find that the country in this vicinity is outwardly tranquil, but I hear that the Arabs are much incensed against the French since the occupation of Kairwan. The latter are I believe, endeavouring to get a concession from the Turkish Government to lay a telegraph line down the coast from Tunis. The Pasha of Tripoli, Hussein Wadli, has lately arrived from Constantinople, and is said to be an intelligent officer."

"The Commander of the troops, which number about 10,000 men and about Tripoli, is Ahmed Rissani. He bears the reputation of being a drunkard, and I am credibly informed has been intriguing with the French. That there is some truth in this statement I have little doubt, as I know privately that he has secured from his command in spite of his Court interest. He is a proxy of the Emir Ennah in the Lebanon war."

"Many refugees have fled from the Lebanon territory into Tripolitan, but the Governor-General has given orders for all to be interned."

"A nephew of Ali Ben Falifa is now residing in Tripoli, to keep quiet until the state of his own country is more settled."

"There are two forts in course of construction here, one on the south will mount three or four heavy guns to command the entrance to the harbour, and the other, of about the same size, near the light-house."

"A project has been forwarded to the Porte by the Commander of the iron-clad 'Mikaden Kairi' to improve the harbour and utilize the services of the military and marine forces by building a breakwater on the shoals to the north-east. This at a large, which is much needed, the bottom being hard sand, affording excellent anchorage-ground, and many wrecks occur in the gales which prevail in the winter months. There are now the remains of four large vessels on the shore which were lost two years ago. I learn that the heaviest gales commence from the north-west, veering to north and north-east."

"The buoys at the entrance to the harbour have been removed. The black leading

mark is also obliterated. I have mentioned this to the Consul-General, who will represent it to the authorities.

"The Turkish iron-clad sloop 'Mukadem Kair' and the wooden corvette 'Mouzafer' are stationed here."

No. 26.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 21)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 8, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 6 of the 31st January, transmitting a copy of Lord Lyons' despatch of the 12th instant, informing your Lordship that M. Gambetta had said by his Excellency "that he had made every inquiry, and had found nothing whatever to confirm the report that a French force had entered the district of Figuig and had an engagement with tribes on the Morocco frontier."

With reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 31st ultimo, transmitting the extract of a letter from a correspondent at Morocco regarding the conflict that had taken place within the Morocco territory, I inclose a paragraph from the "Daily News" of the 2nd instant, mentioning that a despatch from Oran reports that General Delebecq had executed "a grand razzia near Mecheria," and had captured a large number of animals, that ninety Arabs were killed, and that the French losses were insignificant."

As far as I can ascertain, Mecheria,* or a locality having a similar name, is situated within the Moroccan frontier, latitude 32° 31' and longitude 2°, and that the said district would be about 125 kilom. from the site where it is supposed General Delebecq's forces were stationed. I think, therefore, that the report given by the Tafilet inhabitants to the Sultan of the conflict, which my correspondent reported, no doubt refers to the razzia effected by General Delebecq as related in the "Daily News."

I am further inclined to attribute the withdrawal of Delebecq's forces after this success to the energetic language held by Lord Lyons to the French Government, calling on them to fulfil the assurances which had been repeatedly given to his Excellency, that they would not enter the Morocco territory, and that fresh and stringent instructions may have consequently been sent to the French Commanders on the subject.

As the French forces have retired into Algeria, I do not foresee that the defeat of the wild and semi-independent tribes dwelling on the borders of the Morocco territory will be a source of further trouble or anxiety to the Sultan, but, on the contrary, it may produce a beneficial effect by checking the disposition of the tribes to make, as it is alleged, marauding incursions into Algeria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Extract from the "Daily News" of February 2, 1882.

Paris, Wednesday night.

THE INSURRECTION IN ALGERIA.—A despatch from Oran states that General Delebecq has executed a grand razzia near Mecheria, after a march of 125 kilom., which he got over in three days. He captured 10,000 sheep, 600 camels, and a large number of horses and mules, the property of insurgent tribes. Ninety Arabs were killed. The French losses are reported insignificant.

No. 27.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 17, 1882.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 9 of the 17th ultimo, reporting a conversation you had with the French Minister on the previous day respecting the policy which should be

* There may be a site called Mecheria in Algeria, but I cannot find it.—J. H. D. H.

followed in Morocco by England and France, and I have to acquaint you that the language you held to M. Ordega is entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE

No. 28.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord,

Paris, February 23, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, a notice of the appointment of M. Roustan, late French Minister Resident at Tunis, to be French Envoy at Washington, in the room of M. Outrey, resigned.

Another notice announces that M. Roustan has been replaced at Tunis by M. Cambon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 29.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received February 27.)

E

(No. 56. Confidential)

My Lord,

Rome, February 23, 1882.

M. MANCINI having, in the interview I had with him yesterday, made some allusion to the condition of affairs respecting Tunis, I asked him whether the recent change of Government in France had any effect in bettering the understanding between the French and Italian Governments, in regard to pending differences connected with the concerns of the Regency.

His Excellency's reply was that, as far as words went, he had nothing to complain of, but that facts remained the same, and he could not say that as yet he perceived any difference between the policy of M. de Freycinet and M. Gambetta, even in matters of detail.

He referred to the affair of Sfax. It now appeared, his Excellency said, that a French banker, M. de Lamoignon, had agreed to advance the sum of 5 millions and nearly claimed by France, on receiving a first mortgage ("première hypothèque") upon the houses and property of the Italian citizens, but this was a matter in which the interests of Italian citizens were involved to the extent of five millions, that being the amount which had been advanced by them to various natives upon the security of their property. The arrangement, therefore, with the French banking-house would have the effect of depriving the Italians of the guarantees for the repayment of their loans.

He had made a representation, I said, upon the subject, both in Paris and in Tunis.

His Excellency then inquired whether I thought there was any likelihood of the French ever withdrawing their troops from Tunis. If they would enter into some engagement fixing a term for the cessation of the military occupation, all other questions could, he said, be easily arranged ("on pourrait traiter toutes les autres questions"). So long as there was an insurrectionary movement to deal with, the presence of a French armed force might be explicable, but such was no longer the case; he could even admit the French insisting upon occupying certain positions for a brief period, but proceeding as things were now, it amounted pretty much to a permanent occupation of the Regency, which was an open violation of the assurances which had been given by the French Government.

It was impossible, while matters continued on their present footing, that the relations between Italy and France could reassume their former cordiality. He did not wish to contest the right of France to a predominant political influence in the Regency. Italy would be perfectly satisfied to have only such an amount of influence as was necessary for the protection of the interests of her citizens, but, according to present arrangements, the authority of the Bey existed only in name. A permanent occupation or annexation of the Regency by France, with Bizerta within eight hours' sail of the Italian coast, would be a standing menace to Italy which it would be

impossible for her to continue to tolerate. He did not see, either, how it could be for the interests of England.

To his Excellency's inquiry I replied that I had, of course, no better means of knowing what might be the ultimate intention of the French Government than he had, but that, whatever their intentions might be, it appeared to me that nothing would probably be gained by pressing the French Government hastily on the subject, and that I therefore thought that perhaps the best course would be to wait a little and see what course events might take through the spontaneous action of the French Government. Any premature pressure which it might be attempted to exercise might possibly have the effect of producing the directly contrary effect of the one desired.

M. Mancini expressed his acquiescence in these views.

His Excellency then referred to the continued prevalence of bad feeling towards Italians in the South of France, as evinced by a renewed onslaught upon some Italian workmen employed on the railway near Salindres. One of these workmen had been killed, and some others wounded. He had desired the Italian Charge d'Affaires in Paris to call the attention of the French Government to this deplorable occurrence, and to express the hope that proper measures might be taken for the future protection of innocent and unoffending Italian subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 30.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord,

Rome, February 24, 1882

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of an extract from the "Popolo Romano" of this morning, respecting the appointments of M. Roustan as French Minister at Washington, and of M. Cambon to Tunis, which are said to be considered in Italian political circles as likely to be conducive to the renewal of cordial relations between Italy and France, and to a satisfactory solution of the Tunisian difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Extract from the "Popolo Romano" of February 24, 1882.

(Translation.)

ITALY AND FRANCE.—The appointment of M. Roustan as Minister of France at Washington, and the nomination to Tunis of M. Cambon, Administrative Functionary, are considered in our political circles as a favourable augury for the wished-for renewal of cordial relations between the two countries, and for a satisfactory solution of the Tunisian difficulty.

No. 31.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, February 23, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the accompanying extract from the "Stamboul," illustrating the friendly relations existing between the Spanish and Ottoman Governments.

The French Ambassador complained to me some time ago that the Spanish Minister has been in the habit of communicating to the Sublime Porte information respecting Tunisian affairs received from the Spanish Consular officers in that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of February 21, 1882.

L'ESPAGNE, LE MAROC, LA TURQUIE, ET L'ITALIE.—Nous lisons dans le "Yakit":—

"D'après les nouvelles que nous recevons d'Espagne, Sa Majesté le Roi Alphonse et ses Ministres manifestent de grandes sympathies à l'égard de Sermet Effendi, Ministre Ottoman à Madrid et le comblent de prévenances et de honneurs. En outre, le Gouvernement Espagnol, désirant voir s'écarter l'influence du Gouvernement Ottoman au Maroc, les Représentants de l'Espagne dans ce pays tiennent un langage très favorable au Gouvernement Ottoman.

"La crainte de la France dans le Nord de l'Afrique préoccupe vivement le Gouvernement Espagnol, et le Gouvernement Italien s'occupe dans cette affaire des dispositions conformes à celle du Gouvernement Espagnol.

"Ces deux Gouvernements se concertent en vue de prendre des mesures préventives contre l'attitude de la France en Afrique.

No. 32.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Tunis, February 28, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 98 of the 12th September, 1881, on the subject of Mr. A. Massud's claim for damages indisputably caused him by the military operations of his family French troops, I have the honour to report that I succeeded subsequently in inducing M. Roustan to refer the matter to arbitration, notwithstanding that the military authorities had, in the first instance, made a report that the damages sustained by Mr. Massud were little more than nominal.

The arbitrators decided that the claimant was entitled to a payment of 2,100 fr., besides the repair of his farm, which the French authorities undertook to carry into effect without delay.

Three months have passed since that decision was come to, and, as nothing further has been done in the matter, Mr. Massud's damages have been appreciably increased.

On the 25th instant, in answer to a private note I had written to M. Roustan, urging the execution of the terms of the understanding come to, I received a Memorandum, of which I inclose a copy, and the contents of which I venture to think are of more than ordinary importance.

Your Lordship will perceive, by a perusal of the document, that the French contemplate paying all damages caused by them out of the sum to be recovered from the Arabs as war indemnity.

I refrain from making any remark upon this unexpected notification, beyond the observation that the matter does not seem even now to be wholly inadequate to meet the claims already preferred by British subjects alone.

Mr. Massud is anxious to withdraw from the arrangement to which he had consented, but I have persuaded him to refrain from doing so until I receive your Lordship's instructions on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Memorandum communicated by M. Roustan to Mr. Reade, February 25, 1882.

Dès l'acceptation des conclusions des experts par le Consulat Général de Sa Majesté Britannique, M. le Général Japy a demandé au Ministre de la Guerre de lui ouvrir un crédit pour payer au Sieur Massud la somme qui lui était allouée.

M. le Général Camponon a répondu qu'il n'était pas autorisé à ouvrir de crédits pour des réclamations de cette nature, et il l'a fait savoir à son collègue des Affaires Étrangères, en lui priant d'adresser M. de Freycinet a communiqué cette réponse au Ministre-Résident à Tunis, en l'invitant à classer la demande Massud avec les indemnités qui doivent être réglées sur la contribution de guerre.

M. Roustan, en accusant réception de cette dernière communication à M. de Freycinet, n'a pas manqué de faire remarquer au Président du Conseil que le Consulat Général de Sa Majesté Britannique n'ayant accepté la proposition des experts qu'à la condition qu'il y serait fait droit sans délai, il y avait lieu de s'attendre à des difficultés de la part de l'intéressé.

No. 33.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received March 9, 1 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, March 8, 1892, 11.5 A.M.

BANDS of Arab marauders have reappeared in intervening district between Susa and Kairwan, invading some of the principal towns and villages, and carrying off a large number of camels, horses, and mules. Eleven cart-drivers of them supposed to be Maltese, and reported to have been attacked while crossing the Enfida domain; five killed, six others wounded.

The country between Sfax and Gabes is also said to be in a very disturbed state.

No. 34.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 34. Confidential.)
(Extract)

Tangier, March 3, 1892.

YESTERDAY Cid Mohamed Bargash and M. Ordega happened to call upon me at the same time.

M. Ordega, having no interpreter with him, requested me to say to Cid Mohamed Bargash that he had received a communication from the French Government directing him to express to the Sultan and his Government the satisfaction they had experienced from the conduct of the Governor of Oochda, who had settled all the outstanding claims against the Moorish tribes dwelling near the north-eastern frontier of Morocco who had committed forays in Algeria. M. Ordega added that the conduct of the Governor was good proof of the sincerity of the Sultan's desire to do all in his power to maintain friendly relations with the French Government.

Cid Mohamed Bargash having inquired whether there were any late tidings regarding the proceedings of the tribes dwelling near the southern frontier, M. Ordega replied that he had not received any tidings of importance, though the General commanding in the southern provinces had reported that Boo Amama and Cid Sulyman had not made further incursions into Algeria, and had therefore given no late trouble to the military authorities.

No. 35.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received March 12, 11.30 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, March 12, 1892, 7.40 P.M.

THE news of the massacre of five Italian subjects near Enfida having been confirmed, the Italian Acting Consul at Tunis has been instructed to inform the Bey of the deep emotion it has created in Italy, and to remind His Highness of his responsibility for the safety and protection of foreigners.

No. 36.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tunis, March 8, 1892.

REGARDING the disturbances which formed the subject of my telegram No. 9 of this day, I have the honour to submit the following observations.

Ever since their more or less complete occupation of the country, the French have, it appears to me, pursued an irritating policy which, if persisted in will excite reprisals of a serious, if not horrible, description. Not only have they levied upon all classes of the natives, and under the name of "contributions de guerre," taxes which it is very difficult to bear, but Sfax has been wholly ruined by a war indemnity of an entirely disproportionate character, although, according to the view of the natives, the city only offered resistance in self-defence. The cruel and precipitate execution of Arabs at Sfax, Kairwan, Tabourba, Hamamet, and other places has added fuel to the flame, and a widespread feeling of animosity has sprung up from indiscriminate arrests on a charge of participation in the massacre of Oued Zergha.

The native movement seems to be again becoming general, and it is sad to see that British subjects are again victims to it. Ali Ben Hlifa, the insurgent Chief, I am assured, is making great preparations on the Tripolitan frontier for a summer campaign, and the information I have received from reliable sources leads to the belief that a collision between French and Tripolitan forces will, within the present year, become inevitable.

The arrangements which are being made by the French for a stay at this place, the Goletta, Susa, and elsewhere leave no longer any room for doubt that, notwithstanding all assurances to the contrary, the permanent occupation of the Regency is contemplated.

An impression having apparently gained ground in Europe that the departure of the French from Tunis would do away with the "contributions de guerre," I beg to repeat the conviction, which I have in a former despatch expressed to your Lordship, that such an idea is wholly unfounded. Should the French ever think of evacuating the country, the great Arab Chiefs would be only too glad to become hostages for the public security.

I have, &c.
Signed, THOS. F. READE.

No. 37.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 9. Extender)
My Lord,

Tunis, March 8, 1892

I HAVE the honour to report the reappearance of bands of Arab marauders in the intervening district between Kairwan and Susa, where some of the principal towns and villages have been invaded, and a large number of camels, horses, and mules plundered. The drivers of eleven carts have, it appears, also fallen victims to an attack of Arabs while crossing the Enfida domain, five of them being killed and the others severely wounded. Some of these cartmen, it is supposed, were Maltese.

Serious disturbances have, I am further informed, broken out in the country between Sfax and Gabes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 38.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 12, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to transmit telegrams from Paris and Algiers of the 5th and 7th instant, announcing that a conflict had taken place between French troops and Moorish tribes within the territory of Morocco, near Figuiz, and stating that the conflict had arisen from a misunderstanding. No tidings of this conflict have as yet reached me from the interior, nor, indeed, could they be received for at least ten days or a fortnight, as the account of the conflict cannot have arrived at the Moorish Court by courier so soon as it was received through telegram in Algiers and Paris.

It is not improbable that the French Government may, as on past occasions, declare the reports to be incorrect or devoid of foundation, though it is a remarkable fact that the accounts given in the Algerine journals of these conflicts generally agree more or less with the tidings that reach me from the Moorish Court, leading to the

supposition that either the French Government have no control over their Generals or that they are misled by their Reports.

I do not expect any serious consequences will follow from this or past conflicts with tribes who are not at present submissive to the Sultan's authority; but should the French Commanders, encouraged by their successes, penetrate hereafter to districts where the tribes are subject to the Sultan, and the latter shows that he dare not or cannot prevent the violation of his territory, or obtain redress, a revolution may take place, Mulai Hassan be harled from his throne, and some pretender be proclaimed in the southern provinces, which would be followed by a state of complete anarchy throughout this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—At the moment of closing this despatch a colleague sent me the accompanying telegram from a Spanish journal, but the date is not given, though evidently latter than the other telegrams.

J. H. D. H.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Telegram from Paris, inserted in "Gibraltar Chronicle," dated March 5.

A DESPATCH from Algiers states that the Tunis insurgents have again attempted to rise in arms against the French. On this the General in command of the expeditionary army sent a detachment of 300 men to make a reconnaissance towards the south; 1,500 rebels marching from Figuig attempted to intercept their march, but were defeated with a loss of 100 between killed and wounded. The troops lost two killed and ten wounded.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Telegram from Algiers, dated March 7.

(Translation.)

OWING to a misunderstanding, a bloody conflict has occurred within the frontier of Morocco, near Figuig, between French and Moorish troops. The French had supposed that they were Algerian insurgents.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

Telegram from a Spanish Journal.

(Translation.)

OFFICIAL despatches confirm the tidings of a conflict between the French and Moorish troops on the oasis near Figuig. Details regarding this lamentable mistake have not yet been received. The French Government propose to chastise the officer who has been guilty of this act.

No. 39.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 232.)

My Lord,

I HAVE this morning had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 290 of the 14th instant, directing me to bring to the notice of the French Government the claim of M. Antonio Missud for compensation for damage sustained by him in consequence of the occupation of a farm belonging to him near Tunis by French troops.

I inclose a copy of a note which I have in consequence addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Lord Lyons to M. de Freycinet.

Paris, March 16, 1882.

M. le Président du Conseil,

IN obedience to instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs I have the honour to bring to the notice of the French Government the claim of a British subject, M. Antonio Missud, for compensation for damage stated to have been sustained by him in consequence of the occupation in September last by French troops of a house and farm belonging to him called Slusra, which is situated at the distance of about 4 miles from the city of Tunis.

A protest on the subject was made by Missud at the time, to which official course was given by Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Tunis, and the matter was in consequence referred, in concert with M. Roustan, to arbitration.

The arbitrators decided that the claimant was entitled to a payment of 2,100 fr., besides the repair of his farm, which the French authorities undertook to effect without delay.

The award was accepted by Her Majesty's Consulate-General on condition that it should be carried into effect immediately; but weeks elapsed and nothing was done. In consequence communications took place between Her Majesty's Consul-General and M. Roustan, from which it appeared that General Jassay had applied to the Minister of War for a credit to enable him to pay M. Missud the sum awarded to him, but, in reply, had been instructed to include the claim among those to be paid out of the war contribution imposed on the Regency.

It appeared, moreover, that, on being informed of this instruction, M. Roustan pointed out to your Excellency that difficulties must arise with the claimant, inasmuch as the award had not been accepted by the British Consulate-General only on condition that it should be executed without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 40.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 13, 1882.

YESTERDAY, after I had sent off my despatch No. 36, transmitting telegrams inserted in foreign journals regarding the late conflict between French troops and Moorish tribes within the Morocco territory, M. Orlega called, and, in the course of conversation observed that I had probably noticed in the public journals reports of a recent conflict having taken place between French troops and Arabs, and that he had just received a telegram from Paris informing him that such a conflict had taken place on the Morocco territory, and that it had been brought about in consequence of a body of Algerians having cut off a French territory to commit a raid; that they had been attacked by French troops, and, on their defeat, had been pursued across the frontier; that when the pursuit was given up, and the French force was retiring towards the Algerine territory, a force composed of about 1,500 men barred their passage. The French force attacked and routed them, and recrossed the frontier, leaving a hundred of the enemy dead on the field. That the French Commander had supposed, when he engaged this body of natives, that they were insurgents belonging to the camps of Boo Amama or to Cid Suleyman; but that he had subsequently been informed that they were Moorish tribes.

I replied that I had learnt with regret that this conflict had taken place, for I would not conceal from him that it appeared to me strange, after the repeated assurances given by the French Government, that a French force should have invaded the Marroquine territory. M. Orlega observed: "What are we to do? Our territory is invaded; we repulse and pursue the invaders. The frontier is not laid down, as in other countries, by distinct landmarks; it is therefore difficult for our commanders to know when they are on Moorish or on Algerine territory." I remarked that the frontier had been laid down in an especial Treaty, drawn up by Commissioners on the part of both Governments; and that, though there may be difficulty in distinguishing what is Moorish or Algerine territory within a mile or two of the frontier, yet the commander who penetrated, as it is alleged, in pursuit of insurgents, as far as the

vicinity of Figuig, 40 or 50 miles beyond the frontier, must have known that he had entered the Moorish territory. I added that the fact of the encroachments of the Districts which had been invaded having assembled to resist or to bar the passage of the French force that had violated their territory could not be a matter of surprise or even of complaint.

I observed that I desired to place confidence in the assurances which had been given by the French Government, that I had always entertained a real apprehension that ambitious Generals and the natural desire of French officers and troops to seek for every opportunity to distinguish themselves in action would, sooner or later, involve France in a war with Morocco, or that the Sultan's helplessness and inability to prevent these aggressions might ultimately render him so unpopular and despicable in the eyes of his fanatical subjects that a revolution might take place, a pretender to the throne appear, and the whole country be thrown into a state of anarchy.

[illegible]

As it is to be apprehended that this fresh conflict on the Moorish territory may produce a very unfavourable impression on the mind of the Sultan and his advisers, I shall prepare and forward by the first opportunity a private and confidential Memorandum for the Sultan's perusal, giving an account of the language held to me by M. Ordega, and I shall urge that His Majesty should not alter the prudent policy he has hitherto pursued, and that he should continue to do all in his power to prevent the tribes near the frontier from committing aggressions on the Algerine territory, and to endeavour to devise measures which might enable him to carry out this purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P. S.—I omitted to mention that in the above conversation M. Orlegu had informed me that some mischievous persons had insinuated that the chief object of my visit to the Sultan was to thwart his endeavours to establish friendly relations with His Majesty, and generally to offer advice opposed to French interests, but that he had not given ear to their insinuations.

I replied that I was not surprised to hear that an attempt had been made to lead him to believe that I would pursue such an insane policy. I observed that these mischief-makers must have very strange views, when they supposed that the British Representative, who desired to uphold the integrity and independence of this country, should, by encouraging the weak Sultan to resist just and reasonable demands of the powerful Government of France, expose him to the risk of a rupture of relations and a war in which Morocco must be the loser. I said these people must judge others by their own narrow-minded views, and, moreover, jealousy of seeing the good understanding between us had probably induced them to attempt to create discord. I added, "When we meet at Morocco you will find that I shall be ready to give good proofs, as I did to M. Tissot when we visited the Sultan's Court at the same time," that the advice I had to offer either officially or officiously to the Sultan or his advisers will not in any way oppose itself to such friendly relations, and that I should always be ready to support his endeavours to establish the most friendly relations with the Sultan and his Government.

J. H. D. H.

No. 41.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No 11)
My Lord

Tunis, March 14, 1882.

My Lord,
WITH reference to my telegram No. 9 of the 8th instant, reporting the renewal of disturbances by marauding Arabs in the district which intervenes between Susa and Ancona, I have the honor to inclose a copy of a despatch which has reached me from the British Vice Consul at Susa, and from which it will be seen that four of the eleven cart drivers a horse to my said telegram were Maltese, and that, of these, three were killed and one wounded. The remaining seven consisted of six Italians and one Arab and were all killed, with the exception of one Italian who has been brought to Tunis in a severely wounded state.

I may perhaps state, with regard to these deplorable cases of assassinated Maltese, that, in the early days of the French invasion and immediately after the occurrence of the first outrages of this nature, I sent for the principal owners and drivers of carriages at this place, I warned them that if they went into the interior under present circumstances they were at their own risk and I per- I have, &c.

I have, &c
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Acting Vice-Consul Balzan to Mr. Reade.

Sir,

Sund. March 12, 1882.

Sir, I INFORMED you by telegram that I had sent my Dragonman to the Enfield to make inquiries regarding the reported assassination of carters. The Dragonman returned yesterday, and brought the following particulars,—

Four Maltese and a Moorish carrier passed Saturday night, the 4th, at a place called Zriba, in the Kairuan territory, and early on the Sunday morning they were assaulted by a band of Arabs, and three Maltese and the Moor were killed, and the other Maltese was seriously, but not mortally, wounded, having received ten wounds.

Their names are: Casia, wounded; and a brother of Casia, a son of Machon, another name unknown, and Houd Trakelsi, killed.

the women, namely, C. J. Wooten, 55, 115 S. 1st St., and J. J. Wood, 1 to 3rd St. and 1st Ave. were with the women. On the afternoon of the shooting the three men proceeded to the spot where the shooting took place, to view the same. The men, however, did not see the bodies and apparently had not been taken to the bodies and did not until after the shooting. They were responsible. On the morning of the shooting, the three men, I believe, were the owners of the horse in my possession.

At Swateer, also in the Kairwan territory, six Italians were attacked, but apparently by another band, five were killed and one wounded, who proceeded to Tunis.

I have, &c
(Signed) F. BALZAN.

No. 42.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 23.)

Rome, March 17, 1982.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an article from the "Popolo Romano" of to-day upon the Tunisian question, of which the following is a summary —

After criticizing a recent article in the "Journal des D bats," as affording no information as to what France is going to do "when she has re-established order in Tunis," it is remarked "that the Italian Government has, throughout the whole affair, carefully abstained from interference; that now it is evident that France is, after all, unable to restore order in the Regency with the means hitherto employed. What, then, is she to do? Is she to adopt the dangerous course of covering Tunis with an army, which to prevent the recurrence of disturbances, must remain permanently in

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ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

Paris, March 17, 1882.

I have, etc.
(Signed) LYONS.

Earl Grenville to General Menabrea

Foreign Office, March 22, 1882.

In regard to losses by foreigners in Tunis, Her Majesty's Government do not propose to take any action at present.

The Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane to Earl Granville.—(Received March 23.)

By order of Your Lordship's commands we have the honour to per-
mit the steps which have been taken may with advantage be known by Her
Majesty's Ministers, and that any remonstrance addressed to them by an
ecclesiastical body, on the circumstances of the case, and that there is nothing of
the kind published in the "Times" may be accepted by Her Majesty's Govern-
ment. We do not think there is any objection to the publication, at once, in the usual
manner, of the statement. M^{rs} M. started on 10th day of 28th January,
1882. But its publication will probably not add much weight to the notice which has
already appeared.

W. H. S.
S. D. HENRY JAMES,
FARRER HEUSCHILL,
J. PARKER DEAN.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 27, 1882, 6.45 p.m.

CAPTAIN KEYS, agent of the North-west Africa Company, reports to his employers that the French have established themselves in the Island of Arguin, and are building a house or fort on Cape Blanco. You might take advantage of your journey to Cape Blanco to ascertain truth of this report.

No. 47.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 47.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 21, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit an article from the Spanish journal "Imparcial" of the 18th instant, with a translation.

It contains an extract from the French journal "Figaro," intimating that preparations are made to take possession of the Sultan's territory, and that should be carried into execution.

Though the assurances given by the French Government as to their designs respect the territory of the Sultan, and which have been reiterated to me by M. Orlega, appear to be very satisfactory, I will not conceal from your Lordship that I have found that the remarks of French journalists, especially those inserted in the Algerian press, strongly foreshadow coming events, and therefore they are deserving of notice.

The remarks of M. Orlega, in his late conversation with me, tend rather to confirm the supposition that the French Government will, sooner or later, seek for territorial aggrandisement by annexing a portion of Morocco, but they will probably continue to give assurances until it suits their purpose to find pretexts for their action. Such pretexts will be always found when dealing with a helpless and ignorant Government like that of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 48.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 48.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 28, 1882.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 38 of the 13th instant, reporting a conversation you had on the previous day with the French Minister relative to the pursuit by French troops on Moorish territory of Algerine insurgents, and a conflict which subsequently took place between the former and a body of Moors.

I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to M. Orlega on this subject, as well as the advice which you informed him you would give to the Sultan during your visit to His Majesty's Court with regard to his relations with France.

Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris has been requested to take an opportunity of mentioning the substance of your conversation unofficially to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(No. 17. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, March 28, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 37, Secret, of the 13th instant, reporting a conversation with the French Minister with regard to the action M. Orlega had been informed was attributed to you with respect to French interests in Morocco. Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to M. Orlega as reported in your despatch, relative to the policy of this country as regards Morocco, and the action of Her Majesty's Legation in that country in respect to French interests.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 50.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 344.)

Foreign Office, March 28, 1882.

Sir,

WITH reference to Lord Lyons' despatch No. 239 of the 17th instant, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* recording a conversation which took place on the 12th instant between M. Orlega and himself on the subject of the recent conflict between French troops and Moorish tribes within the territory of Morocco.

You will be good enough to take an early opportunity of mentioning to M. de Freycinet unofficially the substance of the conversation in question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 51.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received March 28, 4 p.m.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, March 28, 1882, 2 p.m.

I REPLIED negatively to your Lordship's telegram No. 20 of the 15th, and stated that the Italian Representative had not protested against esparto district concession to French subject, but that he was waiting for instructions from his own Government.

No. 52.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 84.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 29, 1882, 2.45 p.m.

MY despatch No. 79, Commercial, of the 15th to Lord Lyons.

Press for a reply respecting esparto concession.

No. 53.

Sir J. Parncefote to the Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, March 29, 1882.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you the correspondence noted in the margin on the subject of the grant by the Bey of Tunis of a concession to a French subject, named Duplessis, giving him the exclusive right to collect and dispose of all esparto grass being the produce of certain portions of the Regency.

A translation of the concession is enclosed in Mr. Reade's despatch of the

22nd March, and he states that, in his opinion, it amounts to a virtual monopoly of the esparto trade in the southern portion of the Regency.

Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co., and Mr. Levy, who are interested in the trade, have addressed letters to Lord Granville, calling his attention to the subject, and it appears from the account given by the last-named gentleman that esparto, which is largely used in the manufacture of paper in this country, is not a cultivated plant, but grows wild, and is gathered by the Arabs, who drag it down to the seaboard for sale to the exporting merchants.

Mr. Reade, in his despatch No. 7 of the 2nd March, mentions that the representatives of Messrs. Perry and Bury's firm had been informed by the Franco-Tunisian Governor of Southern Tunis of the existence of the concession, and that he had hinted that they should put themselves in communication with the Concessionnaires.

It may be presumed, therefore, that the rights conceded to M. Duplessis are exclusive so far as the districts mentioned in the concession are concerned.

A copy of the Convention of the 19th July, 1876, between Her Majesty and the Bey of Tunis, is annexed, and I am to call your special attention to Articles IV and IX, which provide that British merchants, or their agents and brokers, shall be permitted to purchase at all places within the Regency, whether for the purposes of internal trade or of exportation, all articles, without any exception whatsoever, being the produce or manufacture of the said Regency, and that the purchaser shall be free to remove his goods, when purchased, from one place to another without any attempt being made on the part of the local Governor to interfere with them; and, further, that the Bey formally engages to abolish all monopolies of agricultural produce, or of any other article whatsoever, save and except tobacco and salt.

Article XLI, moreover, provides that, in case of doubt as to the interpretation or the application of any of the stipulations of the Convention, the interpretation most favourable to British subjects shall be given in Tunis, subject to the explanatory additions contained in the Article.

I am to request that you will favour Lord Granville, at your early convenience, with your opinion as to whether the concession to M. Duplessis constitutes an infraction of the Treaty between Her Majesty and the Bey, and if so, that you will suggest the terms of the protest which Mr. Reade should be instructed to address to the Tunisian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 54.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received March 30)

(No. 48)
My Lord, Tangier, March 23, 1882.

M. ORDEGA and the members of his Mission left this morning for Mazagan in the French Government steamer "Desaix."

M. Ordega repeated to me, before leaving, the assurance he had frequently given of the desire of the French Government to maintain friendly relations with the Sultan, and that there is no question of asking for the cession of any territory, or for the rectification of frontier, and "that such is the case," he continued, "you will learn on your approaching visit to the Court." He added that his Government had directed him to assure the Sultan that they desired that the frontier, as fixed in the Treaty of 1845, should be maintained.

M. Ordega said that he had not been able to find a copy of the Treaty in the archives of the French Legation, and that all he possessed was a map. The frontier between Algeria and Morocco was marked, and that he supposed neither party knew precisely the real limits.

I informed M. Ordega that I possessed a copy of the Treaty, which I would be happy to let him take a copy from, and that he would learn from that document that the frontier had been carefully laid down by Commissioners on the part of each Government. He accepted my offer.

M. Ordega said that he had received late and special instructions from the French Government to keep on the best of terms with me, and that they had directed him to

* M. Ordega showed me the map of Captain Deaudois, published at the French War Office in 1848.—J. H. D. H.

give his support to the propositions I may have to make for the improvement of trade by the introduction of more liberal measures, and that he intended to let the Sultan know that the French Government entertained similar views to those of the British Government upon this subject.

M. Ordega said he hoped to meet me at the Court, but that it was his intention, if possible, to leave Morocco on the 9th April.

I thanked M. Ordega for the language he proposed to hold in support of the propositions I have to make to the Moroccan Government for the improvement of trade. I informed him that, in a private communication I had lately sent to the Court, to be submitted to the Sultan, I reiterated the counsels which had been given to His Majesty to do all in his power to maintain friendly relations with the French Government, and that I had further mentioned that I felt sure the Sultan would form, after a personal acquaintance with him (M. Ordega), the same favourable opinion which I already had the pleasure of entertaining.

Cid Mohammed Bargash and the Governor of the town, with a guard of honour, accompanied M. Ordega to the place of embarkation. The town batteries saluted him with seventeen guns, which were returned by the "Desaix."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 55.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 14.)

My Lord, Tangier, March 28, 1882.
TO your Lordship's telegram of the 23th I replied negatively, that the Italian Representative had not protested against the concession of an esparto district to a French subject, but that he was waiting for instructions from his own Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 56.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 3, 11 P.M.)

(No. 15)
(No. 294)
Tangier, April 3, 1882, 11 25 A.M.
FRENCH MINISTER CROCHET and Consul-General CROCHET arrived yesterday Subject to your Lordship's instructions, I shall pay an official visit to him and await first visit of latter before I go to M. Ordega.

My Italian and Spanish colleagues intend pursuing a similar course.

No. 57.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 368.)

My Lord, Foreign Office, April 4, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 333 of the 25th instant, I transmit herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier reporting the substance of a conversation which he had held with M. Ordega on the eve of the departure of the French Mission for Mazagan; and I have to request that your Excellency will take an early opportunity of mentioning to the French Government that Her Majesty's Government have learned with pleasure the friendly nature of the instructions sent to M. Ordega, as communicated to them by Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received April 5.)

(Confidentielle)

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 4 Avril, 1882.

LE Consulat Général d'Italie à Tunis a communiqué au Ministère Royal des Affaires Étrangères un Décret du Bey, en date du 12 Juin dernier, par lequel Son Altesse a concédé à une Société Française, représentée par M. René Duplessis, l'exploitation du sparto dans les montagnes d'Arad. Il est hors de doute que cette Concession constitue, ainsi qu'il résulte des termes du susdit Décret, un véritable monopole, en violation des Traités en vigueur et au détriment des maisons Anglaises et Italienne qui font le commerce du sparto en Tunisie. C'est pour cette raison que, d'après le désir qui m'a été exprimé par mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur d'avoir recours à l'obligeance accoutumée de votre Excellence, en la priant de vouloir bien me faire connaître l'avis du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine à ce sujet.

En vous remerciant d'avance, je suis, &c.

(Signé)

L. F. MENABREA.

No. 59

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 57)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 29, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Shercef of Wazan, Hadj Abdessalam, who had proceeded at the end of last year on a mission to the Chiefs Hou Aniam and Cid Solyma, with the consent of the Sultan and the French Government, returned here yesterday, but as he is, I am told, seriously ill, I am prevented seeing him before I leave Tangier to-day.

I hardly expect that he has been successful in inducing these Chiefs to desist from their attacks on the French, but I have requested him by letter to impart to me secretly by especial courier the result of his mission.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. H. DRUMMOND HAY

No. 60

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic)

Tunis, April 6, 1882.

A DIFFICULTY which had arisen with regard to official visits exchanged between new French Minister and the other foreign Representatives, and which forms the subject of my despatch No. 15 of yesterday, is happily terminated.

No. 61.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 6, 11 P.M.)

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic)

Tunis, April 6, 1882, 11 20 A.M.

INFIDA case: Agents of French Company have, within last few days, been collecting evidence from Arab(s) on estate that Levy's claim to pre-emption was not, in the first instance, asserted according to the forms required by law.

No. 62

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 200.)

My Lord,

Paris April 7 1882

THIS afternoon, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No 344 of the 25th ultimo, I recited, unofficially to M de Freycinet, the

substance of the conversation between Sir Drummond Hay and his French colleague, M. Ordega, which is recorded in Sir Drummond Hay's despatch to your Lordship No. 38 of the 13th ultimo.

Your Lordship will remember that this conversation originated in observations made by M. Ordega respecting the then recent conflict which had taken place on the Morocco side of the frontier between French troops and Arabs.

M. de Freycinet said that he did not share the apprehension expressed by Sir Drummond Hay, that the ambition of French Generals, or the natural desire of French officers and troops to find opportunities for distinguishing themselves, would sooner or later involve France in a war with Morocco. The orders of the French Government were, he could assure me, too positive and precise to leave any opening for attempts at making conquests in Morocco. The state of things on the frontier undoubtedly gave rise to difficulties. There were tribes under the sovereignty of France and tribes under the sovereignty of Morocco. But these tribes were continually shifting their quarters, and the sovereignty thus became rather personal than territorial. It was, moreover, to be remembered that the line of frontier was not distinctly marked out, and that there were Treaty stipulations preventing its being passed by troops in pursuit. If cases of this kind should arise, it is always well to be prepared to withdraw from the Moroccan territory, they never succeed in establishing themselves in it.

The object of the French Government, M. de Freycinet said in conclusion, that the frontier of Morocco should be respected, and their desire was to maintain the most friendly relations with the Sultan. Nothing could be more contrary to their policy or further from their thoughts than to annex any part of the dominions of that Sultan.

I observed to M. de Freycinet that on this last occasion the French troops appeared to have penetrated into Moorish territory to a very considerable distance, and that the result had been a serious conflict with the inhabitants. It seemed, therefore, I added, very desirable, with a view to giving effect to the policy of the French Government, that precautions should be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incursions.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

LYONS.

No. 63.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 7, 8 A.M.)

(No. 17)

(Telegraphic)

Tunis, April 6, 1882, 11 25 P.M.

ESPARTO district concession: M. Mattei is reported to have come to terms with M. Deplessi at Paris regarding purchase of that concession by English firm he represents.

No. 64.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 187. Commercial)

My Lord,

Paris, April 8, 1882

WITH reference to the Commercial despatch No. 167 of the 30th ultimo from this Embassy, and to previous correspondence respecting the grant to a French Company of esparto-producing districts in Tunis, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note from M. de Freycinet stating that he has written to Tunis on the subject, and that he will make me acquainted with the information which he receives as soon as it reaches him.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 64.

M. de Freycinet to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 3 Avril, 1882.

PAR des dépêches en date des 16 et 30 du mois dernier votre Excellence a bien voulu appeler mon attention sur certains bruits d'après lesquels une sorte de monopole pour la vente de l'alfa aurait été accordé en Tunisie à une Compagnie Française, malgré les termes du Traité de 1875, par lequel le Bey s'est engagé vis-à-vis de l'Angleterre à supprimer les monopoles agricoles dans la Régence.

Je me suis empressé, aussitôt après la réception de la première des dépêches de votre Excellence, d'inviter le Représentant de la République à Tunis à m'envoyer des renseignements sur cette question. Je n'ai pas encore reçu sa réponse. Je ne manquerai pas dès qu'elle me sera parvenue de porter à votre connaissance les informations qu'elle contiendra.

Agreez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 65.

The Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)

My Lord,

Temple, April 11, 1882.

WE are honoured with your Lordship's commands, signified in Sir Julian Pauncefoot's letter of the 20th ultimo, stating that he was directed by your Lordship to transmit to us the correspondence on the subject of the grant by the Bey of Tunis of a Concession to a French subject named Duplessis, giving him the exclusive right to collect and dispose of all esparto grass, being the produce of certain portions of the Regency.

That a translation of the Concession was inclosed in Mr. Reade's despatch of the 22nd ultimo, and that he stated that in his opinion it amounted to a virtual monopoly of the esparto trade in the southern portion of the Regency.

That Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co., and Mr. Levy, who were interested in the trade, had addressed letters to your Lordship, calling your Lordship's attention to the subject, and that it appeared, from the account given by the last-named gentleman, that esparto, which was largely used in the manufacture of paper in this country, was not a cultivated plant, but grew wild, and was gathered by the Arabs, who brought it down to the sea-board for sale to the exporting merchants.

That Mr. Reade, in his No. 7 of the 2nd ultimo, mentioned that the representatives of Messrs. Perry and Bury's firm had been informed by the Franco-Tunisian Governor of Southern Tunis, of the existence of the Concession, and that he had indicated that they should put themselves in communication with the concessionaires.

That it might be presumed, therefore, that the rights accorded to M. Duplessis were exclusive, so far as the districts mentioned in the Concession were concerned.

That a copy of the Convention of the 10th July, 1875, between Her Majesty and the Bey of Tunis was annexed, and that Sir Julian Pauncefoot was to call our special attention to Articles IV and IX, which provided that British merchants or their agents and brokers shall be permitted to purchase at all places within the Regency, whether for the purposes of internal trade or of exportation, all articles, without any exception whatsoever, being the produce or manufacture of the said Regency, and that the purchaser shall be free to remove his goods, when purchased, from one place to another, without any attempt being made on the part of the local Governor to interfere with them; and further, that the Bey formally engaged to abolish all monopolies of agricultural produce, or of any other articles whatsoever, save and except tobacco and salt.

That Article XXI moreover provided that in case of doubt as to the interpretation or the application of any of the stipulations of the Convention, the interpretation must be favourable to British subjects shall be given in Tunis, subject to the explanatory additions contained in the Article.

That Sir Julian Pauncefoot was to request our opinion as to whether the Concession to M. Duplessis constituted an infraction of the Treaty between Her Majesty and the Bey, and if so, that we would suggest the terms of the protest which Mr. Reade should be instructed to address to the Tunisian Government.

We are also honoured with a further letter from Sir Julian Pauncefoot, dated the 30th ultimo, inclosing a further despatch from Her Majesty's Agent at Tunis, on the subject of the alleged esparto grass monopoly.

In obedience to your Lordship's commands we have the honour to report—

That we have not before us complete information with regard to the rights which the Bey possesses over the mountains, the esparto grown upon which has been granted to the French Company, nor with regard to any rights under which the public may possess to gather the esparto so grown.

We observe that M. Lequeux, in his despatch of the 20th of March, states: "Le Gouvernement a simplement disposé à titre de seul et légitime propriétaire des produits de terrains qui lui appartiennent." If this be a correct statement, and if it was competent for the Bey, without derogating from the right of the public to make the grant, we do not think it amounted to the creation of a monopoly, within the meaning of Article IX of the Treaty of 1875.

And we do not think it would involve a violation of any other of the rights accorded to Great Britain by the Articles of that Treaty.

We would suggest, therefore, that fuller information should be obtained on the following points:—Whether the mountains named in the Concession are the property of the Bey of Tunis. Whether the public had any, and if so, what right (as distinguished from mere license or permission) to gather the esparto growing on those mountains, and whether it was competent for the Bey, apart from any question of Treaty engagements, to grant a Concession of the exclusive right of gathering esparto from there.

We have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY JAMES
FABER HERSCHELL
J. PARKER DEANE.

No. 66

Earl Granville to General Menabrea.

(Confidential.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, April 11, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Confidential note of the 4th instant, calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the recent Concession by the Bey of Tunis to a French Company, represented by M. René Duplessis, of certain esparto-producing districts situated in the northern part of the Regency.

Your Excellency states that there can be no doubt that the Concession in question constitutes, according to the terms of the Decree, a genuine monopoly, involving a violation of existing Treaties, and injury to the English and Italian houses which carry on the esparto trade in Tunis; and you request, under these circumstances, to be informed what is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the subject.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency, in reply, that the matter to which your note refers is engaging the careful attention of Her Majesty's Government, who have not yet arrived at any decision in regard to it.

I shall not fail, however, to communicate to your Excellency the result of their consideration of this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 67

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 300. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 11, 1882.

I HAVE learnt from a confidential and reliable source that the British and French merchants interested in the export of esparto grass from Tunis have amalgamated their concessions, and that the management of that trade will remain chiefly in English hands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, April 14, 1882, 6.45 P.M.

LAW Officers require fuller information on following points in regard to *esparto* Concession:—

Whether the mountains named therein are the property of the Bey.

Whether the public had any, and, if so, what, right (as distinguished from mere license or permission) to gather the *esparto* growing on these mountains, and whether it was competent for the Bey, apart from any question of Treaty engagements, to grant a Concession of the exclusive right of gathering *esparto* from there.

Consider these points with Dr. Arpa, and report as early as possible.

No. 69.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

Tunis, April 8, 1882

WITH REFERENCE to my Telegram No. 10 of yesterday, bearing termination of a difference which has arisen with regard to the execution of the Treaty between the French Minister Plenipotentiary and the Bey, I may perhaps be permitted to state the terms of the understanding which, after a friendly discussion held in my house with Baron d'Estournelles, Secretary of the French Legation, was come to.

It was resolved that M. Laqueux' Circular, of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch No. 15 of the 4th instant, should be withdrawn, and invitations issued by the French Minister and Consul-General for two separate receptions, the Minister's reception to take place on the 4th of the month, and that of the Consul-General on the following day. It was furthermore agreed that those functionaries should return the visits paid to them immediately after their occurrence, *i.e.*, on the 3th and 5th instant respectively.

This arrangement was duly carried into effect, and relations of a satisfactory nature at once established between the various members of the Diplomatic and Consular Body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 70.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 312.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 13, 1882.

IN execution of the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 368 of the 4th instant, I mentioned yesterday to M. de Freycinet that Her Majesty's Government had learned with pleasure from Sir J. Drummond Hay the friendly nature of the instructions given by the French Government to M. Ordega, the recently-appointed French Minister in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 71

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 10.)

My Lord,

Tunis, April 10, 1882.

IN apparent confirmation of the outbreak of fresh insurrectionary disturbances in the southern provinces of the Regency, as stated in my telegram No. 9 of the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship translated copies of two despatches from the Acting British Consular Agents at Sfax and Gabes, one reporting

a series of outrages by predatory bands in the immediate neighbourhood of the first mentioned town and the other announcing the departure of two columns of French troops for the disturbed districts of the interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

Consular Agent Couchi to Mr. Reade.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Sfax, April 1, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, during the last few days, many of the inhabitants of Sfax, while at work in the adjacent neighbourhood, were at several points attacked by Arab insurgents, who have latterly been devoting themselves to pillage.

These Arabs appeared on horseback, and, trusting to the fact that the townspeople had recently been disarmed, they ventured to within 5 miles distance from the place. They carried away all the beasts of burthen they came across, and even robbed the clothes of the labourers. In the conflicts that took place two were killed, one an insurgent, and the other a resident of the town.

The above incident has created a painful impression in the town, as, besides being prevented from attending to their agricultural occupations, they fear they will not be able to reap the harvest of this season, which, owing to the late heavy rains, is guaranteed to be an abundant one.

It is, on the other hand, expected that the above considerations will induce the authorities to adopt such measures as may be necessary to re-establish order in the outskirts of the town.

The payments effected on account of the war indemnity tax amount to about 1,700,000 piastres. A delay to the end of the present month has been granted for payment of the balance of the two millions which will then be due.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GIUS. CAUCHI

Inclosure 2 in No. 71

Consular Agent Couchi to Mr. Reade

(Translation.)

Sir,

Gabes, April 2, 1882.

AS I have already had the honour to report, Arab insurgents have been devastating this neighbourhood, but there has been no encounter between them and the small columns of French troops which, from time to time, made sorties from this town for the purpose of surprising them somewhere. No success having attended these excursions, a column of French troops, about 3,000 strong, and composed as stated below, left this town two days ago for the interior.

There had been at this place a garrison only of 1,800 men, including cavalry, artillery, engineers, and infantry, so that about 2,000 men must have arrived here by sea and by land between the 22nd and the 28th ultimo, when the above-mentioned column took its departure.

A battalion of Zouaves arrived on the 24th March in a steamer of the Transatlantique Company, and the 6th, 107th, and 55th Regiments came by land from Sfax.

The column which left this town is formed as follows:—Artillery, 100 men, with two guns; cavalry (Hussars), 80 men; Zouaves, 500; and about 2,320 infantry of the line regiments. They were commanded by General Jams and the Governor of the Arrad, Mr. Joseph Allegro.

To garrison this town only eight companies have been left, that is to say, one company of engineers, 50 artillerymen with two guns, 25 cavalry, and two companies of the 6th Regiment of infantry.

The French corvette "Gladiateur" arrived on the 28th, with provisions and ammunition. She continues in the roadstead.

Yesterday, the 1st April, an express arrived from Gabes, saying that a column of

10,000, composed of sixteen battalions of infantry, four companies of artillery, cavalry (number unknown), and the remainder Arabs, is on its march to join that which left this, as above reported.

On the 26th of the past month General Logerot arrived here to direct the movements of these columns.

I am assured that, between Sfax and Gabes, there is a considerable number of Arab insurgents, and that all those who had been subdued by the French are assembling for the purpose of defending themselves in case of attack.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. CALLEJA.

No. 72.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord,

Tunis, April 14, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a petition I have received from British merchants residing at Sfax, on the subject of the consequences likely to result to them from the impossibility of obtaining the sums due to them from native debtors. I need scarcely say that unless some measures are taken to bring about a solution of the question of the damages claimed by British subjects in respect of the bombardment and pillage of the above town, it is impossible to foresee the injury which may be occasioned to the important British interests at stake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 72

Address from British Merchants and others at Sfax to Mr. Reade.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Sfax, April 1, 1882.

CONFIRMING their petition of the 12th January, 1882, the undersigned British subjects, in view of the impossibility of obtaining the several amounts for which the latter are indebted to them, do hereby formally declare that they protest against the said natives and hold them responsible for the payment of the interest due upon those amounts from the date of the maturity of the loans, and that of the rate which shall be fixed by the competent authorities.

The undersigned beg to add, for your guidance, that all means used for obtaining their just rights have failed; and that, while suffering considerable prejudice in their commercial business from want of the above-mentioned encashments, they do not see the possibility of obtaining payment of any amount whatever on account of the credits due to them, because, to their great disappointment, they have been told by their debtors that the latter are unable to think of their private debts, as they are obliged, first of all, to pay the tax which has been imposed upon them by the Government.

Hoping you will have the goodness to take the above statement into early consideration, the Undersigned have the honour, &c.

(Signed) CARDONA AND GILI
(And others.)

No. 73.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 21, 9.40 P.M.)

(No. 19.)

(Telegram.)

Tunis, April 21, 1882, 4.45 P.M.

REPLY to your Lordships telegram of 14th instant regarding esparto concession.

The mountains referred to are generally regarded as property of the Arab tribes who inhabit them. Freehold estates exist in these mountains, with corresponding

title-deeds. Only inhabitants of each mountain have hitherto enjoyed the right of gathering the esparto grown on them.

Regarding the Bey's competency to dispose as he has done of the esparto grown on these mountains I am unable for the present to report.

No. 74.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Morocco, April 9, 1882.

THE Vizier Mukhtar informs me that M. Ordega has given assurances to the Sultan of the desire of the French Government to maintain friendly relations with His Majesty, and that the frontier, as marked in the Treaty of 1845, between France and Morocco, should remain in force. He said that 200 inhabitants from the Figuig and Tafelt districts had arrived at the Court to complain of the late entry of a French force into Moorish territory, and that it was the intention of the Sultan to take advantage of the presence of these people to require that they should take steps to prevent Bou Amena or Cid Suleiman remaining within the Moroccan territory.

M. Ordega called after the Vizier had left, and informed me that, in a private audience with the Sultan, he had given assurances to His Majesty of the wish of the French Government to respect his independence and the integrity of his dominions, and that their troops who had crossed the frontier had merely done so in pursuit of the forces of the Algerine Chieftain who had committed a raid on French territory; but that they had not attempted to establish themselves on any portion of the Moorish dominions.

M. Ordega said that the Sultan had expressed a hope that the French would succeed in capturing Bou Amena and Cid Suleiman.

M. Ordega informed me that he hoped to leave the Moorish Court before the end of this week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 75.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 337.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 23, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, the following documents relative to the organization of the French superintendence of the internal affairs of Tunis.

1. A Report from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the President of the Republic recommending that the French Minister Resident shall be invested with the double character of Diplomatic Representative of the Republic, and of direct Agent of the several Ministerial Departments at Paris. The Report recommends also that the Resident shall correspond with the other French Ministers here, as well as with the Minister for Foreign Affairs; but that all the correspondence shall pass through the Foreign Office, and be examined there with special regard to diplomatic and international interests.

2. A Presidential Decree, giving effect to the above recommendations.

3. An Order of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, establishing in his Department a special office for Tunisian affairs.

4. A Notice that M. Juserand, one of the "rédacteurs" (principal clerks) in the Foreign Department, has been placed at the head of the Office for Tunisian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of April 24, 1882.

Rapport au Président de la République Française.

M. le Président,

Paris, le 22 Avril, 1882.

LES Conventions conclues à diverses époques avec le Bey de Tunis, notamment le Traité du 12 Mai, 1881, ont eu pour résultat d'attribuer au Gouvernement Français une direction plus ou moins étendue sur certains services de la Régence. C'est ainsi que, depuis le Traité du 12 Mai, les Affaires Étrangères sont soumises au contrôle direct du Ministre-Résident, et qu'aucun Acte international ne peut être signé sans notre assentiment.

De même, en vertu des arrangements des 4 Avril, 1868, 5 Juillet, 1869, et 23 Mars, 1871, la France occupe une place prééminente dans la Commission Financière, qui, dans son rôle, les plus importants revenus de la Régence. Dans plusieurs circonstances, et surtout en ce qui concerne le chemin de fer de Tunis à Alger par exemple, est le seul point sur lequel la France a l'insuffisance des autres est au point de vue de la situation des affaires de la Régence. Ce n'est pas seulement dans l'avenir par l'effet de la situation de la Régence. Nous préparons, en ce moment, l'organisation d'un corps de troupes indigènes. Nous faisons également l'institution d'un Tribunal Français à Tunis, et nous avons le soin de surveiller son fonctionnement. Il est permis de prévoir l'époque où la Régence sera soumise à une représentation plus ou moins exacte de nos divers services.

Jusqu'à présent le soin de cette organisation n'appartient exclusivement au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères. Mais celui-ci se trouverait difficilement en mesure de répondre aux nouvelles exigences de la situation créée par le Traité du 12 Mai. En effet, le Département des Affaires Étrangères n'est pas constitué de manière à pouvoir à des besoins aussi variés. Il ne peut à lui seul faire face aux nécessités complexes qu'entraînent des Administrations qui, en France, sont de la compétence de plusieurs Départements Ministériels.

Le moment semble venu d'adopter une organisation plus en harmonie avec la nature des choses. Les services restreints ou non qui fonctionnent en Tunisie, à l'instar des services publics Français, et qui relèvent de notre action, doivent être rattachés plus directement aux Départements Ministériels correspondants. L'action du Ministre de la Justice devra s'exercer sur le Tribunal Français; celle du Ministre de l'Instruction Publique sur nos institutions d'enseignement; celle du Ministre des Travaux Publics sur les travaux des ports et des chemins de fer, etc.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères se restreindra, en conséquence, à son rôle naturel, c'est-à-dire, à la direction diplomatique et aux questions d'ordre international. Toutefois, comme toutes les affaires administratives, de quelque nature qu'elles soient, sont susceptibles sur une terre étrangère de soulever des difficultés politiques, il convient que les décisions prises et les instructions données par les Ministres compétents soient examinées à ce point de vue spécial par le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

Je propose, donc, que toutes les communications échangées entre les divers Départements Ministériels et notre Ministre-Résident à Tunis passent sous les yeux du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, qui ne les relèvera qu'autant qu'elles soulèveront des questions d'ordre diplomatique.

Le Ministre-Résident se trouvera ainsi investi d'un double caractère. Il sera à la fois le Représentant diplomatique de la République et l'Agent direct des différents Départements Ministériels.

Je crois que cette organisation, pourvue de la flexibilité suffisante pour toutes les éventualités de l'avenir, répondra au vœu de l'opinion publique qui, en Tunisie comme en France, demande avec instance l'amélioration du régime actuel, et l'inauguration des réformes qui doivent être la conséquence du Traité du 12 Mai.

Si vous adoptez cette manière de voir, je vous prie, M. le Président, de vouloir bien revêtir de votre approbation le présent Rapport, qui est suivi d'un Décret conforme délibéré avec mes collègues.

Je vous prie, &c.

Le Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,

(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET

Approuvé:

Le Président de la République,

(Signé) JULES GRÉVY.

Le Président de la République Française,
Sur la proposition du Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,

Décret

Article 1^{er}. Les divers services ou établissements fonctionnant en Tunisie, sous l'action du Gouvernement Français, seront, dans les limites où s'exerce cette action, placés dans la dépendance du Département Ministériel correspondant de la République.

Art. 2. Le Ministre-Résident à Tunis sera le représentant direct de tous ces services et, à ce titre, correspondra avec les Ministres Français, desquels il recevra ses instructions.

Art. 3. Les communications échangées entre le Ministre-Résident et les membres du Gouvernement Français, passeront par l'intermédiaire du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères qui les examinera au point de vue spécial de l'action diplomatique et des intérêts internationaux et indiquera, s'il y a lieu, les observations qu'il suggérera cet examen.

Art. 4. Les projets d'organisation et les demandes de crédits y afférents que ces divers services pourraient entraîner seront soumis à l'avis du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères qui les contresignera de concert avec les Ministres compétents.

Art. 5. Les Ministres sont chargés, chacun en ce qui concerne son Département, de l'exécution du présent Décret, qui sera inséré au "Bulletin des Lois."

Fait à Paris, le 22 Avril, 1882.

(Signé) JULES GRÉVY.

Par le Président de la République,
Le Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

Le Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
Vu la nécessité de faciliter l'expédition des affaires concernant la Tunisie, sur la proposition du Directeur du Personnel et des Fonds,

Arrête:

Article 1^{er}. Un troisième Bureau est créé à la Sous-Direction du Midi à la Direction des Affaires Politiques, sous la dénomination de Bureau des Affaires Tunisiennes.

Art. 2. Le Bureau des Affaires Tunisiennes sera chargé de l'examen, au point de vue diplomatique et international, des projets, propositions, réclamations et requêtes de toute nature se rapportant à l'organisation politique, administrative et financière de la Régence, ainsi que de la correspondance générale relative à la Tunisie.

Art. 3. Sous réserve des observations qu'il suggérera cet examen préalable, les projets, propositions, réclamations et requêtes dont il s'agit à l'Article précédent seront transmis immédiatement, suivant le cas, soit aux différents Départements Ministériels compétents pour statuer sur leur objet spécial, soit au Ministre-Résident de la République.

Art. 4. Le Bureau des Affaires Tunisiennes se composera, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, d'un rédacteur faisant fonctions de chef, d'un attaché payé, et d'un attaché.

Art. 5. Le Directeur du Personnel et des Fonds est chargé de l'exécution du présent Arrêté, qui entrera en vigueur à partir du 1^{er} Mai prochain.

Fait à Paris, le 22 Avril, 1882.

(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

Par Arrêté du Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, en date du 22 Avril, 1882, M. Jusserand, Rédacteur à la Direction des Affaires Politiques, est chargé, en cette qualité, des fonctions de Chef du Bureau des Affaires Tunisiennes, créé à la Sous-Direction du Midi, à la Direction des Affaires Politiques.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord,

Tunis, April 29, 1882.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 3 of the 17th January of this year, announcing the arrestation of Taib Bey, the second brother of the reigning Prince, I have the honour to report that, through the good offices of M. Cambon, the first named was yesterday set at liberty.

This act of clemency on the part of the ruling authorities has given very general satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 77.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 389.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 30, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Journal Officiel" of this day, intelligence received by the Government from Africa.

From Tunis the news is stated to be good, but as regards Algeria it appears that a topographical mission, escorted by two companies of the Foreign Legion, was attacked by Arabs numbering 1,800 horse and 6,000 foot.

The French appear to have repulsed the attack, but with the loss of a considerable number of men and a part of the convoy.

The account in the "Journal Officiel" states that the affair took place in a part of the south-west frontier zone which separates Algeria from Morocco.

I inclose also an article from the "Journal des Débats" of this morning, which represents the fight as having taken place in a region under the sovereignty of Morocco, and draws from the affair the following conclusion:—

"Ainsi serait-il à désirer que pour éviter les luttes avec les tribus Marocaines aucun détachement Français ne passât la frontière que dans le cas où une pareille mesure serait absolument indispensable pour atteindre les contingents de Si-Sliman ou de Bon-Amema."

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of April 30, 1882.

LE Gouvernement reçoit d'Afrique les nouvelles suivantes:—

"En Tunisie, d'après un compte rendu télégraphique du Général Forgemol, Commandant le corps d'occupation, les mouvements combinés des colonnes d'opérations ont produit d'excellents résultats. Les deux colonnes dirigées directement par le Général Lagere sont en train de compléter la soumission des Ouzbaya. Celle du Général Jamais a poussé jusqu'à Sidi-Bou-Grara, où elle est entrée en relation avec l'avis le 'Gladiateur.' Celle du Général Philibert marche sur Messireb, après avoir fait rentrer dans le devoir une partie des Merazig de Nefzaoua.

"Les colonnes d'Aubigny et de Laroque sont arrivées sur l'Oued-Ousagha, après avoir parcouru, sans obstacle, la Kessera de Hamada et la région montagneuse environnante.

"L'état sanitaire et moral des troupes ne laisse rien à désirer. Tous les Chefs indigènes ont marché avec nos colonnes.

"En Algérie, dans une partie de la zone frontière sud-ouest, qui sépare notre Colonie du Maroc, une mission topographique, escortée par deux compagnies de la Légion étrangère et placée sous les ordres du Capitaine de Castries, qui doit effectuer un travail commencé entre Aïn-ben-Khelil et le chott Tigr, a été attaquée par les tribus dissidentes. L'ennemi comptait environ 1,800 cavaliers et 6,000 fantassins.

"Nos soldats, dont l'effectif était d'un peu plus de 300 hommes et qui se battaient

un contre trente, se sont vaillamment comportés, et, dans la mêlée furieuse qui s'est engagée, ils ont été dignes des vieilles troupes d'Afrique. Nos pertes sont sensibles: 2 officiers tués, 2 officiers blessés, 48 soldats tués ou disparus, 26 blessés. Une partie du convoi a été enlevée par suite de la fuite des convoyeurs Arabes.

"Les pertes des assaillants sont considérables. On les évalue à plusieurs centaines de tués. Les femmes Arabes accompagnaient les combattants et ont montré un acharnement inouï.

"Cet engagement fait le plus grand honneur aux troupes qui l'ont soutenu.— 'Nos blessés sont pleins de fierté,' dit le Général Colonnieu, en rendant compte de leur arrivée à Aïn-ben-Khelil.

"D'après un télégramme du Général Saussier, qui se trouve en tournée à Tlemcen, ce fait isolé et accidentel ne doit inspirer aucune inquiétude.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Extract from the "Journal des Débats" of April 30, 1882.

D'ASSEZ graves nouvelles nous sont arrivées ce matin de la province d'Oran. Deux compagnies de la Légion étrangère ont été attaquées par les Arabes aux environs du chott Tigr. Les assaillants étaient au nombre de 6,000 fantassins et 1,500 cavaliers. Le détachement Français, commandé par M. de Castries, a opposé une énergique résistance, et a fini par rester maître du terrain. Le combat paraît avoir été des plus vifs, car les pertes faites par nos troupes s'élèvent à quatre-vingt-huit tués et à une quarantaine de blessés. D'après la dépêche qui nous annonce ce fait d'armes, plusieurs centaines d'ennemis auraient été tués. Mais tout en reconnaissant que cet engagement fait le plus grand honneur à nos troupes, nous ne devons pas malheureusement perdre de vue qu'elles ont été obligées d'abandonner leur convoi. Comme il arrive trop souvent dans les expéditions entreprises au sud de l'Algérie, les indigènes chargés d'escorter les approvisionnements de toute nature qui suivent les colonnes, ont déserté leur poste pendant le combat. Les deux compagnies, dont l'effectif venait d'être affaibli par l'engagement qu'elles avaient eu à soutenir, ont dû se résigner à abandonner leurs provisions, afin de ne pas disséminer leurs forces, dans le cas où elles auraient à repousser une nouvelle attaque de l'ennemi.

Les dépêches que nous avons reçues ce matin d'Oran, n'indiquent pas d'une manière bien précise le lieu où nos troupes ont été attaquées par les Arabes. Nous savons seulement que le combat a été livré sur les bords du chott Tigr. Ce chott a près de 50 kilom. de longueur, et sa largeur moyenne est d'environ 15 kilom. Il est situé en entier sur le territoire Marocain, et son extrémité orientale est séparée que par une distance de quelques kilomètres de la frontière Algérienne. On peut donc tenir pour certain que le détachement Français se trouvait fort près de la frontière Marocaine et probablement même dans les États du Chérif, au moment où il a été assailli par les indigènes. La dépêche télégraphique dont nous avons donné plus haut l'analyse nous apprend de plus que les deux compagnies Françaises étaient chargées d'une reconnaissance topographique et qu'elles ont été attaquées par des tribus nominalement soumises au Sultan du Maroc.

Nous ne devons pas nous étonner, du reste, des fréquentes incursions que nos troupes sont obligées de faire sur le territoire Marocain. A partir de Sidi-Sliman il n'existe plus de frontière, et la souveraineté de la France et celle du Chérif s'exercent sur les tribus et non sur le sol. C'est dans cette zone, mais plus au sud, qu'a été récemment livré le combat de l'Oued Fendi, où nos troupes ont mis en déroute les contingents de Bon-Amema. Aujourd'hui c'est dans une région sur laquelle le Maroc a des droits de souveraineté que s'est engagée la lutte; mais nos troupes ne sauraient être accusées pour cela d'avoir violé les principes du droit des gens. Les difficultés assez fréquentes que soulèvent les déprédations commises dans le sud de la province d'Oran par les tribus Marocaines les plus rapprochées de la frontière ont été récemment réglées par un accord intervenu entre le Sultan Muley Hassan et le Représentant de notre pays. Le Gouvernement du Chérif a payé une partie des indemnités auxquelles avaient droit les tribus placées sous notre domination qui avaient été victimes des déprédations exercées par des bandes venues du Maroc. En même temps, il a été convenu que les États de Muley Hassan ne devaient plus servir de base à des incursions du Sahara Oranais et que nos troupes auraient le droit de passer la frontière pour poursuivre les rebelles.

Les dispositions dont le Chérif est en ce moment animé envers notre pays paraissent assez faciles à expliquer. La dynastie qui régit à Fez n'a jamais reconnu la suprématie Ottomane, et, de l'autre côté de la frontière occidentale de l'Algérie, nous n'avons pas à craindre les manœuvres du Panislamisme comme en Égypte ou en Tunisie. Le Maroc n'est pas soumis à l'influence de la Porte comme la plupart des autres États Musulmans, et l'Angleterre est le seul État Européen dont le crédit auprès du Gouvernement de Fez soit assez solidement établi pour être en mesure de susciter à l'occasion des difficultés diplomatiques entre le Chérif et notre pays. Les relations qui existent en ce moment entre les deux Puissances Occidentales ne sauraient donner lieu de craindre aucune complication de cette nature, et il est à présumer que le concours du Maroc ne fera pas défaut aux autorités militaires Françaises pour faciliter la répression de la révolte du Sahara Occidental. Mais si les dispositions dont est animé le Gouvernement du Chérif ne sont pas douteuses, nous ne devons pas perdre de vue pour cela que son autorité ne se fait sentir que d'une façon à peu près nominale sur la partie de ses États la plus rapprochée de l'Algérie. Aussi serait-il à désirer que pour éviter des luttes avec les tribus Marocaines aucun détachement Français ne passât la frontière que dans le cas où une pareille mesure serait absolument indispensable pour atteindre les contingents de Si-Shuman ou de Bou-Amama.

No. 78.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Morocco, April 13, 1982.

THIS morning I had a private audience of the Sultan.

I commenced the conversation by saying that I had come to the Court, with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, in pursuance of the wish His Majesty had expressed to have an opportunity of consulting with me upon various matters of importance.

The Sultan replied that he desired to consult with me regarding the state of the relations with the French Government, and the question of interests in Morocco. The various questions which I raised, such as how to help the Algerians who might arise on the southern frontier of Morocco, and the proceedings of the Algerian Chiefs Ben Aïme and Sidani, which would be a help to Moroccan territory.

I observed that the French Government, through its confidential Agent, Cid Bonchekir, the friendly assurances that had been given by the French Government to the British Ambassador at Paris regarding their desire to maintain friendly relations with the Sultan, and to respect his independence and the integrity of his dominions, that these assurances on this subject had been held to me by the French Minister, M. Ouge, both at his arrival at Tangier and on the day before he had left for the Court. I added that, on the latter occasion, he had informed me he had received instructions from his Government to explain to the Sultan how it had come to pass that the French forces had recently crossed the frontier in pursuit of Algerian rebels who had committed ravages in each territory, and that, on their return, with the intention of crossing the frontier, their passage had been barred by the inhabitants of the Figuig district and others; a conflict had taken place, and the French forces, after dispersing its opponents, had re-entered the Algerian territory.

I further acquainted the Sultan that, since my arrival at the Court, M. Orleaga had informed me that he had given His Majesty similar assurances and explanations, and that he had pointed out to His Majesty that, according to the spirit of Article IV of the Frontier Treaty of 1845, the French had the right to pursue and attack Algerian rebels in the Sahara or adjoining territory; and that as His Majesty had not sufficient forces at his disposal to restrain Boo Amsana and other Algerian rebels from committing outrages on French territory or to expel them, that it would be advantageous to both parties that French troops should pursue and exterminate these troublesome Chiefs, whose persistent hostile action might ultimately bring about the gravest complications between the two countries.

"M. Ordega," I added, "informs me that your Majesty has consented that French forces can pursue and chastise hostile Algerian Chiefs and tribes dwelling in the south-eastern districts of your Majesty's dominions;" and therefore I said I should be glad to learn, confidentially, from His Majesty himself (if he saw no

objection in confiding it to me) whether the above language had been held to His Majesty by M. Ordaz, and whether his Majesty had given his consent to the entry of French forces in case of necessity into the Morocco territory

The Sultan replied that M. Ordega had given assurances of a friendly character, and of the desire of the French Government to adhere to the frontier as laid down in the Treaty of 1845, and not to encroach upon their territory, that he had also claimed the right of French forces, in accordance with Article IV, to attack and chastise Algerian rebels who committed hostilities on French territory and then sought refuge in the Sultan's dominions. That he agreed to the limits specified in Article IV, and the repeated advice I had given that he, the Sultan, should do all in his power to expel Boo Amama, Suleiman, and other Algerines, or to restrain them from committing outrages on the frontier, and as, His Majesty added, I had also intimated that if they had not the power to do so, very grave complications might some day arise, and as it would be really very beneficial to both parties that these troublesome Chiefs should be expelled from the Morocco territory, he, the Sultan, had given his consent.

I asked the Sultan whether any point on the frontier had been fixed north of which French force would not be allowed to enter as punishment of Algerian rebels. His Majesty replied, "Teniet Sassi,"¹ and that north of that district no French force was to enter on any plea whatsoever; and further, that M. Orlega had engaged that the French troops should not remain longer than was requisite for their operations in pursuit of these Chiefs.

I inquired whether the assurance was that the British Government would respect the integrity of the Sultan's dominions and His Majesty's answer had been committed to writing. His Majesty replied that I had recommended confidentially that such an assurance in writing signed by the Minister should be obtained, and that His Majesty was in possession of this document.

The Sultan informed me that he expected M. Ortega to take leave this morning and that he therefore deferred consulting with me upon the subject of His Majesty's

I withdrew from the M. Ophidion, and the black catfish gasped off the P. d. d.

They therefore say that the French do not know that the Almoravids live south of Tenaq Sissig to the little stream and do not pay taxes, but merely acknowledge the Sultan as the "Caliph Allah." The district and town of Tattelt have, however, authorities regularly appointed by the Sultan, and many of the members of the Shirwanian dynasty reside there. That district, I understand, is not to be entered by the French.

With regard to the consequences that may ensue from this consideration by the Sultan, I am of opinion that, so long as the Commanders of the French army take no the way of the concession, the operations and abstain from building permanent fortifications within the Morocco territory, it is perhaps the only solution to be given to a state of affairs which might sooner or later have caused the French to enter the Morocco territory without the Sultan's consent as at present obtained.

The Sultan appeared to be much impressed by this, for he repeatedly observed that he could never venture to send a force against the tribes on the south-east frontier, where he had not the means of provisioning his troops, who might therefore desert and join the insurgents. His Majesty also acknowledged that he could not resist English arms, and that his ports were at the mercy of any naval force which might be sent to attack them.

About 200 inhabitants of the Figuig and Taflelt districts have recently arrived at this Court and complained that the French had entered the Figuig district, massacred the people, and destroyed or carried off their property. I suggested that the Sultan should point out to these people that they had hitherto neglected to acknowledge his temporal authority, and now that in consequence of the rebels having closed the avenues of the French to settle or take refuge within their territory, and, that they have been chastised, they appeal for redress to His Majesty, and that it appeared to me that the Sultan should take advantage of this state of affairs and recommend to these people, as the best and sole remedy, that they take steps to expel the Algerian Chiefs and their followers, and that they show by their conduct for the future that they wish to be faithful subjects of His Majesty and will obey his orders, and that should they do so, the French will be requested by His Majesty not to molest them.

I have, &c

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY

* Latitude 34° N, longitude 4° W

[1269]

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P.S.—I omitted to mention that in the course of conversation the Sultan thanked me for the friendly advice I had frequently given His Majesty on questions with the French, urging always that he should do all in his power, without sacrificing his independence or the integrity of his dominions, to maintain friendly relations with the French Government.

J. H. D. H.

No. 79.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 63.)

My Lord,

Morocco, April 16, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had a private audience of the Sultan this morning. I acquainted His Majesty that M. Onizaga had informed me that he had requested His Majesty to allow the projected "Trans-Sahara" Railway to Timbuctoo to pass through the Touat district near Saa,* which is within Morocco. The French Minister said the railway would facilitate the traffic of the inhabitants, but that His Majesty had declined to accede to the request.

The Sultan replied that, though he did not suppose this railway would ever be constructed, he never would consent to grant facilities for the traffic between Algiers and the Soudan, which might check or even put a stop to the trade that now passed from Central Africa through his own dominions.

I observed that I believed there were two projects regarding the line of the proposed railway, and that one was to pass to the eastward of Moorish territory, and the other by Merherza and thence to Sali,† both of which sites are within His Majesty's dominions.

The Sultan said that one of the chief objects of his expedition to Soos was to reach Wadnoon, and to take measures for opening a port there, which would become an emporium for the trade of the Soudan, and be a preferable route to that proposed by the French through Algeria.

I inquired if His Majesty had heard that the French had occupied the Island of Arguin, near Cape Blanco, which is one of the nearest points from the coast of the Atlantic to Timbuctoo. His Majesty said he had not received any tidings on the subject, and when I remarked that Arguin was nearer to Senegal than to the Morocco frontier, he said he did not suppose any report of French proceedings from such a distant point as Arguin would reach him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 80.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 65. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Morocco, April 16, 1882.

IN a private audience I had with the Sultan this morning His Majesty informed me that one of the chief subjects on which he wished to consult me was the expedition he was about to make into Soos, with the view of opening one or two ports, as had been suggested by Her Majesty's Government, on the south-western coast of his dominions, and of establishing his authority in those regions.

I replied that, though I was pleased to learn His Majesty adhered to his intention of opening ports on the south-western coast, I apprehended that it would be a rash act, at the present time, to march the large army‡ which had been assembled into Soos, as the crops there had entirely failed from the drought, and all vegetation was said to be dried up. I added that I had just traversed, on my journey to the Court, the provinces between Daralbaida and this city; that I had found the crops stunted and irreparably lost; that the cattle were dying off, and the poorer population were feeding on the poisonous root of the arum, and would probably perish by thousands during the summer. I informed His Majesty that I had reason to know that there

* About longitude 4° W., latitude 26° N.

† About longitude 3° W., latitude 29½° N.

‡ Abt. 24,000 men.—J. H. D. H.

was a spirit of disaffection throughout his army, and I apprehended that, if he marched towards the south, the men would desert and the horses and baggage animals die from want of food. An insurrection might at any time take place in the northern provinces, and that he risked losing his throne.

I told the Sultan that I would not conceal from him that the principal officers of his Court made no secret of their dissatisfaction. I suggested that he should defer the expedition until another year, when, if there was a good harvest and the people were less discontented, he might have far better hopes of success; and, in the meantime, I suggested he might dispatch two regiments of Askar, by sea, to Agadeer, to garrison that town, as a preliminary step towards bringing his subjects in the southern provinces under control.

The Sultan replied that he had already dispatched several thousand camel-loads of provisions and ammunition to Mogador, to be conveyed thence by sea to supply his forces on their march; that the very fact of the crops having failed in the Soos and Wadnoon districts gave him better hopes of bringing under subjection the inhabitants, who, in a year of plenty would be better able to resist his arms; that he had been told that the Spanish Government intended to insist on the cession of a port, as stipulated in the Treaty after the war of 1860, and that he desired to see himself the site of Santa Cruz la Pequeña. His Majesty said he hoped Spain would not insist on the cession of a port for fishing; but that, if they did, he would build forts around the site ceded, and thus prevent its being made use of for trading purposes; whilst he was prepared to offer to prolong the payment of half the customs dues of his ports to Spain for a number of years if the Government of that country would forego their pretensions.

I told His Majesty that I had not heard that Spain intended to insist on the cession of a port, and that I thought the Spanish Government would be delayed giving rise to any embarrassing question at the present moment, which might embitter His Majesty's position in the eyes of his subjects.

The Sultan appeared to be much impressed by the language I had held, particularly when I told him that there was a current belief in an old prophecy, that the Sultan of Morocco, who caused silver coin to be struck in Europe and entered Soos with an army in the same year, would never return.

His Majesty requested me to point out how he could hire a steamer or steamers to provision his army. I recommended him to give orders to Cid Mohammed Bargash, who could put himself in communication with the agents of steam companies at Gibraltar. His Majesty abandoned for the present the idea of buying a steamer, for which purpose he had sent the son of Cid Mohammed Bargash to London.

I have to mention to your Lordship that on my journey to testify the Governors of the different provinces, who have all received orders to join the expedition with their contingents of cavalry, implored me to counsel the Sultan not to attempt to enter Soos in the present year, as that country would be destitute of forage and water. On my arrival here the Vizier and the chief officers of the Court, with whom I am acquainted, also requested me to dissuade the Sultan from marching into Soos in the present year, when there was such a general state of distress throughout the Empire. They told me that they had used their best influence to dissuade His Majesty, but that he had turned a deaf ear to their counsels and entreaties.

Since my conversation with the Sultan I have suggested, through one of his Secretaries, that His Majesty should send a Proclamation to the Soos people, to the effect that he had intended to visit their country, with the view of opening ports to facilitate the sale of produce and the purchase of European commodities, instead of their having to go for that purpose to the distant port of Mogador, but that on account of the general distress throughout Soos, His Majesty refrains this year from entering their country with his army, but will send a ship with masons and other artificers and provisions to Ifuy† or other suitable site for establishing a port, where there is a sufficient supply of water; and that he calls upon the inhabitants of that district to aid in erecting a wall, which shall enclose the new port, and that he engages that every workman employed shall receive an adequate compensation in money or grain. I added that when a strong enclosure has been constructed, a regiment of Askar could be sent to garrison it; guns could be placed in position on the walls and stores built for depositing a supply of provisions and ammunition of war, and then if the Sultan

* This is the name of the site mentioned in the Spanish version of the Treaty as a port to be ceded as a "fishery." In the Arabic it is called "Agadeer." The word "Agadeer" in the Soos language means a fortified place or castle.—J. H. D. H.

† About latitude 29° N., longitude 18° W.

next year should think it necessary to enter Soos with an army, he would find a strong hold and plentiful supplies, upon which he could depend, in case his army experienced serious opposition or difficulties in their progress.

I am informed that the inhabitants of Soos are emigrating in large numbers towards the north, fleeing from the dearth and famine that prevails in all the southern districts.

I fear the Sultan is very obstinate, and will not alter his decision.

The disorganization of the Sultan's army or its defeat would probably bring about a revolution and his downfall. The most disastrous consequences might follow, as there would be no security for life or property throughout the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 81.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(Extender of Telegram No. 19.)

My Lord,

Tunis, April 21, 1881

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, regarding the late esparto concession, I have the honour to state as follows:—

The mountains referred to in the Act of Concession are generally regarded as property of the Arabs by whom they are inhabited. There are freehold estates situated on these mountains which are occupied in conformity with title-deeds drawn up with all the formalities required by law; and, until now, nobody has enjoyed the right of gathering esparto on these mountains except inhabitants of the locality.

With regard to the alleged competency of the Bey to dispose, as he has done, of the esparto growing on these mountains, I am not prepared, for the present, to report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 82.

Acting Consul-General White to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 26, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Mogador, Mr. Payton, relative to the reported occupation by the French of Arquin, on the west coast of Africa.

This despatch of Mr. Payton was written in reply to a despatch addressed to him by Sir John Drummond Hay, requesting him to impart any information he might be able to obtain on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Consul Payton to Acting Consul-General White.

Bir,

Mogador, April 21, 1882

WITH reference to Sir John D. Hay's despatch of the 27th March last, concerning reported French occupation of Arquin, I have the honour to give the following information, obtained from a gentleman who has just come from Cape Juby.

He says there is no doubt that the French have taken and are fortifying Arquin (close to Cape Juby) and that it was made too near the Spanish Southern ports for them to run the risk of its being taken by a British Power. But Arquin is a good port, there being good anchorage for a large number of vessels, and it is conveniently situated for trade with Timbuctoo and Sudan, and there is some local trade in wool, &c.

My informant also states that the Spaniards appear to have taken possession of the

mouth of the River Oro, some 300 miles south of Cape Juby, apparently as a fishing station, in connection with the Spanish Fishery Company at Graciosa (Lanzarote), but that there is stationed at the Oro an armed vessel flying the Royal Spanish flag.

I mentioned in a former communication that I had heard that the Oro River teemed with fish and had a good entrance. I am told that on the bar there are 14 feet water at low tide, and plenty of deep water inside.

My informant had also heard that the people of Ait Bon Arman* had revolted against Cid Houm-bel-Hashem, and that he was now a refugee with only a small following.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

No. 83.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received May 4, 2-40 p.m.)

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, May 4, 1882, 10-30 A.M.

DR. MATTEI has arrived here, and, on behalf of Hough, of London, formally asks for my official support to a demand he puts forward for the concession of some esparto-producing districts of Southern Tunis. I request to be instructed as to whether I may accord this support.

I understand an arrangement has been come to to convert M. Duplessis' concession into an Anglo-French concern.

No. 84.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, May 5, 1882, 3-5 p.m.

YOUR telegram No. 20 of yesterday.

The question as to the esparto concession is before the Law Officers, and you had better not interfere.

No. 85.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 486.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 5, 1882

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1131 of the 10th December last, forwarding a copy of a note from M. Gambetta stating that the French Government would give attention to the claims of British subjects arising out of the events which took place last year at Stax, if they were submitted through Her Majesty's Embassy at Paris, I now transmit to your Excellency a list of the British subjects whose cases were considered by the Sfax Commission, in accordance with the instructions addressed to the Commissioners by the respective Governments. The paper gives the amount of the claims as preferred, and the sum awarded in each case by the Commission.

The records of the Commission in the possession of the French Foreign Office, of which copies have been furnished to Her Majesty's Government by Captain Tryon, will be found to contain, in addition to the evidence as to particular claims, a large amount of further information, which will doubtless enable the French Government to come to a conclusion.

In submitting the claims to M. de Freycinet, you will call his Excellency's attention to the fact that the awards were unanimously voted in each case, after a long and careful consideration, by a Commission composed of three French, one Italian, one English, and one Tunisian members, and that the Commission terminated its labours, so far as the examination of claims was concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 375.)

My Lord,

Paris, May 5, 1882.

WITH my despatch No. 359 of the 30th ultimo I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship the account published in the "Journal Officiel" of an attack made by Arabs on a French topographical mission and its escort near a place called Tchott Tigre, on the confines of Algeria and Morocco.

Occasion was taken in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday from this affair by M. Eugène Ténat, and later in the sitting by M. Ballue, to blame the Government for being unnecessarily scrupulous respecting the territory of Morocco, and in particular for not occupying the oasis of Figuig.

"Je demanderai au Gouvernement," said M. Ténat, "d'agir avec décision et avec énergie; j'exprimerai le vœu qu'on aille enfin à Figuig, quelles que puissent être les 'qu'en dira-t-on' de Londres et de Madrid."

In reply, M. de Freycinet made the following statement as to the position of France with regard to the Empire of Morocco:

"Il est exact qu'aux termes du Traité de 1845, le Gouvernement Français et le Gouvernement Marocain ont respectivement le droit de suivre leurs sujets sur le territoire voisin lorsque ces sujets rebelles ont dépassé je ne dirai pas la frontière, car il n'y en a pas, mais la ligne idéale qui est censée séparer les deux Empires."

"En effet, dans ce Traité de 1845, un Article explique que, dans les portions du territoire Marocain et du territoire Algérien qui confluent au Sahara, il n'y a pas de limites à proprement parler, mais que les possessions des deux Empires correspondent aux surfaces occupées par un certain nombre de tribus dénommées; de sorte que, lorsqu'une ou plusieurs de ces tribus se déplacent et se transportent d'un territoire sur l'autre, la juridiction primitive peut les accompagner et les suivre sur le territoire où elles se sont réfugiées."

M. de Freycinet went on to say that the object of the recent mission of the French Representative at Tangier was to define the rights thus belonging to France, and to facilitate the exercise of them.

He added that the result had been not only that these rights had been perfectly recognized, but that the Emperor of Morocco, in order to establish them more completely, had written an official letter to all the Governors and Commanders in chief of the district, commanding them not only not to oppose the French troops, but to treat them as friends and allies.

"En effet, à la suite des pourparlers engagés avec l'Empereur du Maroc, l'exercice de nos droits n'a point été interrompu, et n'a jamais été contesté—et, en outre, l'Empereur du Maroc, afin de nous les établir, a écrit à tous les Gouverneurs, Commandants et Chefs de district, pour leur ordonner non seulement de ne pas s'opposer à la marche de nos troupes, mais encore de les accueillir comme des amis, des alliés, et de leur faciliter l'accomplissement de leur mission."

M. de Freycinet proceeded to explain that, in the affair of the Tchott Tigre, it was not French territory that was invaded, but, on the contrary, the French party had quitted their own territory and were on foreign ground when they were attacked.

In answer to M. Ballue, M. de Freycinet said that there was nothing in the present state of Algeria to render any extraordinary effort necessary, and he observed that if the Government were to come to the Chamber for a vote of 5 or 6 millions (200,000*l.* or 240,000*l.*) for an expedition they would certainly not obtain it.

Throughout both his speeches he bore testimony to the friendly dispositions of the Emperor of Morocco.

"Il serait injuste," he declared, "de rendre l'Empereur du Maroc responsable des faits qui peuvent se passer dans cette région, lorsque c'est nous-mêmes qui nous y rendons spontanément. Tout ce que nous pouvons demander, c'est qu'on nous y laisse libres de nous faire justice nous-mêmes, lorsque le Souverain naturel ne peut pas nous la faire obtenir. C'est cette justice que l'Empereur du Maroc nous reconnaît toujours le droit de nous faire rendre."

At the same time, in answer to the taunts of his opponents, M. de Freycinet said very positively that if aggressions were ever made upon French territory from the neighbouring country, or if a centre was established in that country on which bands were organized to invade Algeria, France would assuredly take counsel only from her interests and her dignity.

M. Ballue moved an order of the day to the effect that the Chamber invited the Government to pursue an energetic policy in Algeria, but afterwards withdrew it, and the order of the day pure and simple was adopted without a division.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 87.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord,

Tunis, May 1, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Dr. Gustav Nachtigal, the celebrated traveller, arrived here on the 28th ultimo, having been appointed to the temporary charge of the German Consulate-General at this place during the absence of the titular occupant of that office.

On the following day Dr. Nachtigal was presented to the Bey by Baron d'Estournelles, the French Acting Chargé d'Affaires, through whose good offices, it appears, he received the necessary exequatur. An escort of French cavalry accompanied the Doctor and Chargé d'Affaires to the Bardo.

The latter circumstances, and the unusual channel of introduction adopted in the present instance, have caused a deep sensation among all classes of the community, except, of course the French and their sympathizers, and more particularly among the native population, to whom Dr. Nachtigal was well and favourably known during the time he served as a medical practitioner at the Court of His Highness the Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 88.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, May 9, 1882 3.37 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of 5th instant, I am advised by Law Officers that, in the absence of information regarding this right of exclusive property in the Bey to the esparto grass, it would not be right to sanction any official intervention on behalf of any proposed concessionaires.

No. 89.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Tunis, May 6, 1882.

M. RENÉ DUPLESSIS, accompanied by some other gentlemen and the agent of Messrs. Hough, Laws, Sartees, and Co., has arrived here. He called on me yesterday, and entered into a lengthy explanation of his concession and the projects now entertained concerning its utilization.

It appears that, in working the five mountains conceded to him, he intends associating with himself the above well-known firm of English steamship proprietors, and that the arrangements of the partnership are on the point of being concluded. The seat of the new Company is to be in London, and the concern to be English rather than French. M. Duplessis maintained that the possession of exclusive right over the five ceded mountains cannot be fairly construed into a monopoly of the whole country, and called particular attention to the fact that neither he nor his future associates are interested in any esparto manufactory, but that it was their intention simply to offer the fibre to the whole English market. He also observed that some French firms had been ready and anxious to join him in the business of the concession, but that he had refused their tempting offers, wishing rather to avoid the possibility of its being said that his project would prejudicially interfere with an essential element of English trade.

I have felt it my duty to keep your Lordship informed of what is taking place in the matter of the esparto concession, as, apart from the consideration of the Bey's compe-

lency to grant that concession, the present aspect of the case, so far as regards British interests, has, through the action now taken by M. Duplessis, in my opinion, materially changed. As matters now stand, the creation of such a Company as that projected would tend rather to strengthen than to diminish English interests in this country, and it must be remembered that, although this matter has been extensively ventilated during the last two months, no kind of protest has reached this office or the Beylical Government.

I hope soon to be able to complete a Report on the purely legal questions forwarded to me, and, on M. Cambon's return from a cruise along the coast of the Regency, shall probably have some communication with him on the subject, as I understand M. Duplessis is supported in the most influential circles of French society. Meanwhile, I think it only fair to M. Duplessis to state that he produced on me personally a favourable impression on account especially of the apparent straightforwardness of his intentions as regards England, and that the gentlemen with whom he is treating are known to me as holding a respectable position in the commercial world.

While writing I am put in possession of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, on the subject of Dr. Mattei's separate application, which I may observe has nothing to do with M. Duplessis' project. I shall, until further orders, carefully abstain from interfering on his behalf, but shall not fail to inform your Lordship of everything that transpires in connection with the object of his present visit to the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 90.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 70.)

My Lord,

Morocco, April 26, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 65, Confidential, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that every preparation has been made for the campaign to Soos. The Sultan's tent has been pitched outside the city, and is surrounded by a large number of tents for the infantry and cavalry, who are marching from all parts of the interior to accompany the expedition.

In a private audience I had with the Sultan this morning His Majesty observed that he could not defer the expedition, as the inhabitants of Soos and other tribes might attribute his hesitation to a fear of defeat; that he desired to prove to the world he was not only the nominal Sovereign of Soos, but that he had marched as far south as Wad Noon, and had established his authority. His Majesty said that he wished to see himself whether there was any fit site for a port on the coast, especially that of Santa Cruz la Piqueña, where a fishery is ceded by Treaty to Spain.

His Majesty observed that he had followed my advice, and had sent letters to the Chiefs of Soos informing them that he intended to visit that part of his dominions, not with the view of chastising them or of levying taxes, but of seeking to benefit them by opening ports on their coast to facilitate trade. His Majesty said he should not be absent more than two months.

I met yesterday, at the house of Cid Boubekir, the Governor of Tackna, a powerful Arab tribe inhabiting the district between Wad Noon and Wad Drâa. He informed me that he had submitted to the Sultan's authority, and should accompany the expedition. He is of opinion that the Sultan will not encounter any opposition in his march through Soos to Wad Noon. The greater part of the inhabitants, he said, had deserted the country in consequence of the drought that had prevailed for the last four years, and those that remained were poverty-stricken and famished. He was of opinion that there would be no difficulty in opening a port on the site of Santa Cruz la Piqueña if the Sultan did not attempt to impose heavy taxes on the population, and selected Governors or Bhekhs from the inhabitants, and not from members of his Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 91.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

E

(Extender of Telegram No. 20.)

My Lord,

Tunis, May 4, 1882.

DR MATTEI is here again, and in the name of Messrs. Hough and Co., of London, asks for my official support to a demand he has put forward for the concession of some esparto-producing districts in the southern division of the Regency. Without your Lordship's instructions I shall do nothing. I trust therefore I may be informed whether I should accord the support asked for.

I understand that some arrangement has been come to for the conversion of Mr Duplessis' concession into an Anglo-French concern.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 92

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 69)

My Lord,

Morocco, April 26, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 55 of the 28th March and No. 63 of the 10th instant, regarding the landing of the French at Arguin, I have the honour to transmit an extract from a private letter addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Mogador, confirming the tidings that had been received on this subject, and reporting that the Spaniards are supposed to have taken possession of a site in the mouth of the River Oro, about 300 miles south of Cape Juby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY

Inclosure in No. 92

Extract from Letter from Mr. Consul Payton, of Mogador, to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

AN English doctor, who has been staying at Cape Juby, reports as follows:—

"It is certain that the French have taken and are fortifying Arguin: 'It was too close to their Senegal Settlements for them to leave it open for any other Power to take'."

Arguin has good anchorage for a large number of vessels, and is well situated for trade with Tripoli and the Sudan. My informant considers it one of the best places on the coast. There is some local trade in wool, &c.

The same informant states that the Spaniards appear to have taken possession of the mouth of the Oro River, some 300 miles south of Cape Juby, apparently as a fishing-station, in connection with the Spanish Fishery Company at Graciosa (Lanzarote), and that there is stationed at the mouth of the Oro an armed vessel flying the Royal Spanish flag.

This river teems with fish, and has a good entrance, 14 feet of water on the bar at low tide, and fine anchorage inside. It is reported that the Spaniards, who landed with a sloop to land on the beach one day, fired upon some natives near, who looked threatening, then ran for their boats, and went on board, without waiting to investigate the result of their shots.

People of Ant Bou Amran alleged to have revolted against Cid Hosein bel Hashem,* who is said to be a refugee with only a small following.

Continued drought and consequent distress from Soos down to below Cape Juby. Many deaths from hunger near the latter place.

* A Sherref: the Chief of Ant Bou Amran.—J. H. D. H.

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 9 Mai, 1882.

UN différend s'est élevé à Tunis entre le Représentant d'Italie et le Gouvernement du Bey relativement à l'interprétation du Décret fondamental de la Commission Financière.

Il s'agit d'établir si l'approbation préalable du Comité Exécutif de la dite Commission est nécessaire ou non, pour rendre valide une concession emphytéotique, à titre onéreux, faite par le Gouvernement de la Régence.

Le Résident Français, au nom du Gouvernement de Son Altesse, est d'avis que ce consentement est requis par le Décret constitutif de la Commission, tandis que le Consul du Roi fait remarquer que ni l'Ordonnance du 5 Juillet, 1869, ni la Convention du 23 Mars, 1870, ne contiennent des dispositions susceptibles d'une telle explication.

Vu que la Grande-Bretagne s'est rendue garante, ainsi que l'ont été la France, de l'exécution du susdit Décret, son Excellence le Chevalier Mancini attachera du prix à connaître l'avis du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine sur cette question, et j'ai, par suite, l'honneur d'avoir recours à l'obligeance accoutumée de votre Excellence en la priant de vouloir bien me mettre en mesure de donner à mon Gouvernement quelques informations à ce sujet.

En vous remerciant d'avance je suis, &c.

(Signed) L. P. MENABREA.

No. 94.

Consul-General Playfair to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

Algiers, May 18, 1882.

IN continuation of my letter No. 7 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that, since the affair of the Tebott Tigre, the Arabs are reported to have attempted on several occasions to approach the French posts.

A few days ago the columns commanded by Colonel Négrier and Comte de Maunet succeeded in surrounding them. After several attempts the Arabs fled towards Tallelt, leaving in the hands of the French their dead and wounded, their flocks, 200 camels, and the plunder taken from the towns of the district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 95.

Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. to Sir Charles W. Dilke.—(Received May 24.)

Sir,

Liverpool, May 23, 1882.

Concession of Esparto in Tunis.

REFERRING to the copy of the above-named concession, our knowledge is, one of our partners, who has just been in Tunis, has ascertained that, although ostensibly for five mountains, the concession really comprises five chains of mountains, and amounts to a cession of all the esparto lands of the Regency, except a few of the most fertile portions.

We have to bring before you the fact that although the question of the concession is not yet decided by the two Governments, the concessionaires, putting forward a British subject as their representative, have already taken forcible possession of the land and buildings in our tenancy, situated at Skira, and which the concessionaires have agreed to sell to us. At the time of taking possession our employees were actually carrying on business there for us. We trust that the above arrangement, which was carried out with the assistance of French troops, will not be disapproved of by Her Majesty's Government, and that they will cause the premises to be restored to us. It is understood that the British subject in question (a certain

Mr Mattei, of Malta) is the one who recently sought the aid of Mr. Reade in endeavouring to get a further concession.

Relying on the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the concession to M. Duplessis was against our Treaty with the Bey, and therefore inoperative, we have carefully refrained from seeking anything in the way of a concession for ourselves; but if it should eventually be decided that the Bey has power to give such concessions, we trust that Her Majesty's Government will do so. The concessions to the large and valuable trade of esparto in the Regency, and as having invested large sums of money in plant, in the faith of the trade remaining open (as trade has hitherto been in Tunis), shall have equal advantages with any French or English subject in this business. Otherwise, our capital invested on the coast will be entirely lost to us, and the effect on our business will be ruinous.

We have, &c.

(Signed) PERRY, BURY, AND CO.

No. 96.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 73.)

My Lord,

Morocco, May 8, 1882.

M. DIOSDADO has informed me that the object of his mission has been chiefly to impress upon the Sultan and his Ministers the desire of the Spanish Government to maintain the most friendly relations, and to assure His Majesty that they take a deep interest in preserving His Majesty's independence and the integrity of his dominions. M. Diosdado said that he had also told the Sultan that the views of his Government were in accordance with those of the British Government, and that it will be a source of satisfaction to the Spanish Government to learn that a written assurance had been given by M. Orleaga that no alteration of the frontier will be claimed, and that if French forces enter the Sahara in pursuit of Algerian Chiefs, they will not remain or establish themselves in that territory.

M. Diosdado has also told me, with his usual frankness, that he would point out to the Sultan that the stipulation regarding the cession of the salt on the south-west coast, as provided in the Treaty between Spain and Morocco, should be carried into effect as soon as His Majesty had the power to do so. He had requested that orders should be given to Moorish officers in the Rif to put a stop to the expeditions which sometimes were offered in the provisioning of Spanish garrisons on the North African coast. M. Diosdado had also put forward a demand for satisfaction for the unjust imprisonment of a Spanish subject at Fez.

Information which has been imparted to me by members of the Sultan's Government confirms all that M. Diosdado has told me confidentially.

The Sultan and his Ministers have expressed their satisfaction at the friendly relations which exist between the two Governments, and have said that M. Diosdado has done his duty. I have stated to the Sultan that I am disposed to accede to the wishes of the Spanish Government in the above-mentioned questions, and I have let His Majesty know that I have done so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 97.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 74.)

My Lord,

Morocco, May 8, 1882.

A MOOR from the site called "Ifay," in the province of Abi Bou Amran, the chief of Soos, named Mohammed Ben-el-Hosni, arrived at the Sultan's camp at Fez, and presented himself to the Sultan. He stated that he had been sent by the Sultan of Abi Bou Amran to inform the Sultan of Fez that no opposition would be offered to His Majesty in his march through their territory, and that the inhabitants will offer their submission if His Majesty should so order.

pacille intentions, and does not attempt to impose heavy contributions. He requested the Spanish Minister to obtain for him safe-conduct, so as to enable him to make known his errand to the Sultan or his Vizier.

A verbal message was sent by M. Diosdado and myself through the Moorish officer, Cid Bou Bekir, requesting that the Sultan should assure us that this emissary from Alt Bou Amran would not be arrested or molested hereafter if all owed to deliver the message of his tribe.

The Sultan having given, through Cid Bou Bekir, a promise of safe-conduct, M. Diosdado sent the emissary to the Vizier, who took note of all he had to say, and sent the man back in safety with Cid Bou Bekir to the Spanish Mission.

I have had some conversation with this Moor. He tells me that attempts have been made by French and English trading companies to establish themselves at Ifuy, and to open a trade there; that he and other inhabitants were disposed to have encouraged foreigners to come to Ifuy, as they had no outlet for their produce. He informed me that several English merchants at Mogador had entered into a correspondence with the Chiefs of Alt Bou Amran, and that an engagement had been entered into to trade with the North African Company; that samples of rich minerals found near Ifuy had been sent to British merchants as a proof of the important commercial relations which might be established. He informed me that a letter I had addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Mogador, was sent to the Sultan by the Moorish coast, and that the Sultan desired to open a port near the coast, and that he was disposed to send workmen to aid His Majesty to build a wall round the subjects. For a port seems to us to be the only way to open a trade with the subjects of Alt Bou Amran, and that I hoped to find them and their agents in the active service of the Sultan.

I informed the emissary that we desired to see the Sultan's authority acknowledged through his representatives, but that I had no right to do so without the authority of Her Majesty's Government. I told him that I was disposed to send workmen to aid His Majesty to build a wall round the subjects. For a port seems to us to be the only way to open a trade with the subjects of Alt Bou Amran, and that I hoped to find them and their agents in the active service of the Sultan.

The emissary replied: "Robbery is not known amongst us, though here it is rife. We shall be ready to-day with you when a port is opened by His Shercehan Majesty, and if you pay our tribe a visit you will be welcomed by us."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 96

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 77)

My Lord,

Mogador, May 11, 1882

THE Spanish Minister leaves the Court to-day for Mazagan, where a Spanish Government vessel awaits his arrival to convey him to Tangier.

On the 11th instant a banquet was given to him and to the members of his mission by the Vizier, to which I was invited. As the Rev. José Lereundi was prevented by indisposition from attending, I conducted the conversation between the Vizier and M. Diosdado. He repeated to the Vizier language similar to that he had held in his private audience with the Sultan* respecting the common interest that the British and Spanish Governments took in the maintenance of the Sultan's independence and the integrity of his dominions, and the perfect understanding that existed between the two Governments, as also between M. Diosdado and myself, upon this subject.

I told the Vizier that he was to accept this language as proceeding not only from the Spanish Minister, but also from myself.

M. Diosdado observed that it was of the greatest importance that no differences should arise between the Moorish Government and either of these friendly Powers, who take such lively interest in the Sultan's welfare, and he therefore hoped to hear

* See No. 96

that any divergence of views regarding the continuation of the negotiation for the Commercial Convention between Great Britain and Morocco should be arranged in a friendly and satisfactory manner before my departure from the Court.

On taking leave, the Vizier grasped jointly the hands of M. Diosdado and of myself, and upon which I said, "This is a pledge of mutual goodwill and of the perfect understanding that exists between us." The Governments of Great Britain and Spain have, I repeat, the same interest in upholding the independence of the Sultan and the integrity of his dominions, and also the same desire that His Majesty should continue to maintain friendly relations with France and with all other foreign Powers.

If no other object has been attained by the simultaneous visits of the British and Spanish Ministers to this Court than that of conveying to His Majesty and His Ministers of the complete understanding that exists between the two Governments and their Representatives as regards Morocco, I think your Lordship will consider that it is a matter of satisfaction.

I take advantage of this opportunity of expressing to your Lordship the pleasure I have experienced in having had the good fortune to co-operate with a colleague who has given unceasing proofs of straightforward, honourable conduct in affairs, and who is utterly devoid of those petty feelings of jealousy which so frequently mar that good understanding which it is the desire of Her Majesty's Government should exist between myself and my foreign colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY

No. 99.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, May 30, 1882.

I HAVE laid before Earl Granville your letter of the 23rd instant relative to the *esparto* concession recently granted by the Bey of Tunis to M. Duplessis, and complaining of the arbitrary proceedings of the concessionnaires in the case of property belonging to your firm.

I am directed by his Lordship to state that the question of this concession has been referred to the Law Officers of the Crown, and that, in accordance with their advice, he has instructed Her Majesty's Agent at Tunis that in the absence of information regarding the right of exclusive property in the Bey to the *esparto* grass, he should not interfere in the matter.

I am to add that your letter under acknowledgment will also be referred to the Law Officers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE

No. 100

Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co. to Sir Charles W. Dilke.—(Received June 6)

Sir,

Liverpool, June 2, 1882

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo.

When the question of the concession was first laid before Her Majesty's Government, we understood they were of opinion that the same constituted a monopoly, and was therefore in contravention of our Treaty with the Bey. May we ask whether Her Majesty's Government are still of this opinion?

Yours, &c.
(Signed) PERRY, BURY, AND CO.

No. 101.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 8, 1882, 6:45 P.M.

MESSRS. PERRY & BURY state that representative of persons to whom esparto concession was granted have taken possession of land and buildings in their tenancy at Sfax. Please send report on case without delay.

No. 102

*Earl Granville to General Menabrea.**Foreign Office, June 9, 1882.*

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE had under my consideration your Excellency's letter of the 9th ultimo, in which you inquire whether or not, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the previous approval of the Executive Committee of the Tunisian Finance Commission is necessary in order to render valid a "concession emphytéotique à titre onéreux" (or, as Her Majesty's Government understand the phrase, a contract for a perpetual lease, with certain obligations attached thereto), granted by the Government of the Regency of Tunis.

In referring to the opinion which your Excellency observes is held by the French Government on this question, you state that neither the Decree of the 5th July, 1860, nor the "Convention" of the 23rd March, 1870, contains any clauses susceptible of such an interpretation.

Your Excellency then proceeds to inquire what is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the particular point in question, as far as your Excellency states, Great Britain, as well as France, and Italy guarantee the execution of the Decree of the 5th July, 1860.

I would first observe, M. l'Ambassadeur, with reference to what your Excellency terms the "Convention" of 1870, that the Act of Settlement of the 23rd March, 1870, does not constitute a Convention, properly so called, but is merely a Code of Regulations issued by the Executive Committee under Article 8 of the Decree of the 5th July, 1860, which Regulations, however, have the force of law.

They declare that the arrangement for the settlement of the Tunisian Debt and its execution are placed "sous la sauvegarde" of the three Governments under whose patronage the arrangement was concluded.

The Powers, therefore, have given no guarantee, but they have, nevertheless, the right to intervene for the due execution of the arrangement which the law has placed under their protection.

As regards the special case to which your Excellency's letter refers, I have the honour to observe that the answer to the question raised would appear to depend on the precise nature of the transaction.

If the loan in question has been granted as a means of raising a loan, the French Resident's contention referred to by your Excellency would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be right, as by Article 9 of the Decree of the 5th July the Tunisian Government cannot contract a loan without the approval of the two Committees.

In the absence, therefore, of fuller particulars respecting the grant of the loan in question, I regret that I am unable to express an opinion on the validity of the objection raised by the French Resident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 103.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received June 9, 11 P.M.)

(No. 22)

(Telegraphic.)

Tunis, June 9, 1882, 3:40 P.M.

M. MATTEI, agent of Messrs. Hough and Co., but not of M. Duplessis, esparto concessionnaire, alleges to have bought the land and buildings referred to in your

Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant from the Governor of Sfax, who, according to version of Perry, Bury, and Co.'s representative, had already sold the same to the latter. Papers exist in support of both versions, and the case is referred to local authorities. As soon as I obtain further particulars I shall submit them to your Lordship.

No. 104.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 34.)

My Lord,

Tunis, June 8, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship's consideration the inclosed copy of a petition which I lately received from some of the leading British subjects resident at Sfax, with reference to what appears to be an arbitrary and illegal measure adopted by the Governor of that town to their great prejudice. The petitioners complain that his Excellency has interdicted the sale of property duly mortgaged to them from periods anterior to the late bombardment and sacking of Sfax.

I have, in consequence, addressed a letter to the Tunisian Government, of which a copy is also hereto annexed, but have not since been favoured with a reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Petition of certain British Subjects resident at Sfax.

To THOS. F. READE, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Tunis.

The petition of Giuseppe Spiteri and others, British merchants, residing and carrying on business at Sfax, in the Regency of Tunis,

Humbly sheweth:

1. THAT the whole of your petitioners have sustained great loss and damage by the bombardment and sacking of Sfax, during the months of June and July last.

2. That notwithstanding the appointment of an International Commission to investigate the same, your petitioners have received no compensation for the losses aforesaid.

3. That your petitioners regret to say that certain orders lately issued by the local authorities tend most materially to aggravate the critical position in which they are now placed.

4. That the Governor of Sfax has now forbidden the sale of all real estates mortgaged to your petitioners by their native debtors, and duly put up to public auction in default of payment, according to the local law and usages in force, and this notwithstanding that the mortgages in question were contracted prior to the bombardment and sacking aforesaid.

5. That this arbitrary order, which has been officially communicated to your petitioners by the Tunisian Governor in person, is all the more unjust, as it enables your petitioners' debtors, to their prejudice, to obtain possession of all the crops of the current year.

6. That, in addition to this illegal order, the Governor of Sfax now asserts a right to arbitrarily fix the rate of interest on all long-standing claims.

7. That it must be also remembered that your petitioners are unable to encash their unsecured debts from natives, owing to the goods of their debtors having been either destroyed or sold by auction by order of the Governor and on account of the Tunisian Government, as well as by reason of the heavy war indemnity imposed on their said debtors, and which has reduced the whole population to penury.

8. That the above orders threaten to involve the British mercantile community of Sfax in ruin.

For these reasons—

Your petitioners protest against the Tunisian Government and all whom it may concern for all loss and damages which may result to them from such orders as

aforesaid, and pray that you will be pleased to transmit a copy of this protest to the Government of His Highness the Bey of Tunis, as well as to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whose high protection is invoked by your petitioners, under the circumstances of unparalleled difficulty in which they find themselves placed.

And your petitioners will ever pray
Tunis, May 21, 1882.

(For G. S. Peters and others
(Signed) A. M. BROADLEY Barrister-at-Law

Inclosure 2 in No. 101

Mr. Reade to Sid Mohammed Khamadar.

Excellency,

Tunis, May 22, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a petition which I have received from several British subjects residing at Sfax, and which I am informed is expressed in terms similar to those of a like act addressed to the Representative of Italy, complaining that the Governor of Sfax has arbitrarily interfered with the sale of property duly pledged to them from, as I understand, periods anterior to the bombardment and sacking of that town.

The matters disclosed in the present petition are of such a grave nature that I venture to ask your prompt and serious attention to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 102

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Messrs. Perry, Bury, and Co.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, June 12, 1882.

I HAVE laid before Earl Granville your letter of the 2nd instant, inquiring whether Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the concession of *esparto* by the Bey of Tunis constitutes a monopoly, and is in contravention of our Treaty with His Highness; and, in reply, I am directed by his Lordship to state that the information in the possession of Her Majesty's Government is not yet sufficient to enable them to give an answer to your question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE

No. 103

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 87 Confidential)

My Lord,

Baharra, June 4, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Memorandum of the language held to Mr. White by M. Diosdado, regarding a conversation he had with M. Ordega.

The remark made by M. Ordega relative to the probable occupation of Figuig by French troops, and the language he held to me, as reported in my despatch No. 37, marked Secret, of the 10th March, lead me to believe, notwithstanding the late assurances given by M. de Freveinet to Lord Lyons, that the French Government continue to entertain ambitious designs upon Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Memorandum of Language held to Mr. H. P. White by M. Diosdado regarding a Conversation he had with M. Ordega.

M. DIOSDADO called on me on the 21st May to say good-bye, as he was leaving for Spain. He asked me to report to Sir J. H. Drummond Hay a conversation he had just had with M. Ordega, as he feared he would not have time to write himself to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

He stated that he mentioned to M. Ordega that he had heard from Sir J. Drummond Hay, at Morocco, the result of M. Ordega's negotiation at the Moorish Court, regarding the frontier question, viz., that the Sultan had insisted that French troops might cross the border in pursuit of Algerian insurgents, M. Ordega, engaged on the part of the French Government, that the French troops should immediately afterwards return within French territory, and that on no account whatever would they erect forts, or establish any permanent posts on Moorish territory.

M. Ordega observed that the information that had been imparted to M. Diosdado was correct, but, he added, that the engagement could affect only the present time, and that it was impossible to state what might occur in the immediate future, even within the next six months. He remarked that interpellations had taken place in the French Chamber, and that there existed a strong public opinion in France, and amongst the French Government, about the necessity of the French troops remaining in Morocco, and that he considered it to be the most advantageous position for France to take in the future.

M. Diosdado observed that he feared that should France find it necessary to occupy Morocco, it would arise to her it equally necessary or convenient to occupy Morocco at other point of Morocco territory, and this might go on indefinitely until the Atlantic Ocean formed the boundaries of French possession.

M. Ordega stated that he wished to be frank, and to show that he was not a surreptitious spy, and, therefore, read to M. Diosdado a despatch he had received from the French Minister at Paris. He then read extracts from a despatch in which the Minister stated of the desire of the French Government to keep on good terms with Morocco, and to respect its independence and integrity, but only extracts were read from the despatch.

M. Diosdado seeing that nothing could be gained by entering into any discussion of the question with M. Ordega, allowed the subject to drop.

No. 107.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received June 19)

(No. 100. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 12, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Hadj Abdelkrim Breesha has been appointed to the Court at Madrid. The object of the mission has been kept secret, but the Sultan has stated to me that he is going about his expected successor. He was accompanied by a large train and arrived with the Spanish Government, having the concession of Spain in 1804 Santa Cruz la Pequeña as a fishery site. I enclosed a translation from the Arabic text of Article VIII of that Treaty. In the Spanish text the site is called Agadeer in the Arabic text and Santa Cruz la Pequeña in the Spanish text.

In reply to the query I put the Sultan as to what proposition he intended to make to the Spanish Government upon this question, he replied that he intended to offer to pay an indemnity if they would consent to abrogate the Article regarding the cession of the fishery site, and that, as he had no funds at present at his disposal, he thought of proposing that the Spanish should continue to receive half the receipts of Customs at the Moorish ports until an adequate indemnity was paid. If, on the other hand, Spain persisted in demanding the cession of the fishery, His Majesty then

* Signed at Tetuan on the 25th April.

proposed that a site should be ceded adjoining Agadeer or the port that he intended to build on the site near, where Santa Cruz la Pequeña was situated, but that in such case he would require a strict adherence to the terms of the Treaty, that the site ceded to Spain should be used solely as a fishing station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure in No. 107

Article VIII of the Treaty between Spain and Morocco, signed at Tetuan on the 26th April, 1860.

(Translation from the Arabic.)

THE Emperor of Morocco shall cede to the Queen of Spain for ever territory on the coast of the ocean near "Santa Cruz," so called in the Spanish language, and in the Arabic "Agadeer," in order that she may cause to be built there an establishment for fishermen like that which was there formerly. In order to carry out what is stated in this stipulation, the two Governments shall come to an understanding on this matter, and respectively appoint Commissioners to see and mark out the limits of the ground necessary for such an establishment.

No. 108.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord,

Tunis, June 17, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report that the southern districts of this Regency have again been the scene of serious disturbances, fighting having, during the last three or four weeks, occurred there between the so-called insurgents and the Arabs who have come to terms with the French. Although every effort is made to explain away these facts, there appears to be no doubt that the main object of the French expedition in Southern Tunis has failed.

Ali Ben Halifa, with many thousand followers, belonging to no less than thirteen tribes, is always on the frontier, and unless the French are prepared either to advance into Tripoli, or permanently possess the Werghama districts, no great force, no permanent pacification of that part of the Regency can ever, in my opinion, be looked for. Information I have received from reliable sources lead me to think that there is no chance of Ali Ben Halifa accepting the conditions offered him.

In the face of the coming Conference, I have thought these observations about the state of affairs in Tunis may have some interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 109.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

Tunis, June 21, 1882.

THE "Journal des Débats" of the 13th instant contains a long article in condemnation of the Consular jurisdiction in Tunis, inserted evidently with a view to support the efforts that are now being made to do away with the "Capitulations." This article is really so fallacious and so calculated to prejudicially mislead public opinion, that I have felt it my duty to afford to your Lordship a prompt and unqualified refutation of it—the more so as the author, M. Charmes, has been a guest at the French Residency for over one month, and a very general impression exists that the article has been inspired from official sources.

Nothing, my Lord, would be easier, if it were necessary, to rebut the writer's assertions in detail, but I shall endeavour to avoid wearying your Lordship by treating the matter in a summary manner.

* The Arabic name "Agadeer" is omitted in the Spanish text, and Santa Cruz is mentioned as Santa Cruz la Pequeña.—J. H. D. H.

No. 108*

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 23, 1882.

IN my despatch No. 44 of the 5th July last I instructed you to communicate with M. Roustan, who had been appointed Foreign Minister to the Bey of Tunis, on all matters, whether relating to the foreign, political, or other business of the Tunisian Government.

I have to request you to inform me whether you continue to comply with these instructions since the appointment of M. Cambon as French Resident.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

It will at once strike your Lordship that if all, or even a part, of what the writer says were true, the institution of European Consulates would be regarded with universal disfavour both by Europeans and natives. This, however, is very far from being the case. The Consular protection is absolutely necessary for the existence of a European Colony in Mahomedan countries, while the presence of Consular officers in those countries is looked on by the native population with favour as affording some check to the arbitrary power of their Rulers. The Bey, too, and his Government have not unfrequently sought for and obtained support from the Consuls in times of difficulty.

Mention is made by the writer of Consular influence irregularly exercised in the the sanitary and municipal administrations, and this is assuredly the first instance of such a complaint being seriously put forward. The direction of sanitary affairs in Tunis is confided to the Consular Corps by the Bey himself, who, if the arrangement did not work to his advantage, would certainly withdraw it from them. The Consuls are, moreover, represented as unduly interfering in matters connected with the Municipality, and this charge is absolutely untrue. If it were so, the city would have a different appearance, and the present chaos would cease.

My Italian colleague is furthermore accused of keeping up a corrupt system of protection of natives and others. Whatever may be said of former French Consuls in this respect, I have reason to believe the allegation against the Italian authorities is wholly devoid of foundation, and the truth can easily be ascertained by reference to the Consular Registers.

The imputations on the Spanish Consul-General's proceedings are equally groundless.

However much the French may desire to extend their Protectorate by abolishing the "Capitulations," after having engaged to maintain them, it is to be regretted that resort is had to a wholesale and violent attack of this kind on a body of men to whom any progress made in these countries is to be mainly attributed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Extract from the "*Journal des Débats*" of June 13, 1882.

LETTRES DE TUNISIE.

(Les numéros des 30 Avril, 4, 20, 30 Mai, 3 et 9 Juin.)

VII.—*Les Consuls.*

JE ne saurais trop insister sur la nécessité absolue de la suppression des Capitulations en Tunisie. À mon avis, cette suppression est encore plus indispensable que celle de la Commission Financière; dans tous les cas, elle est certainement plus urgente. On comprendrait à la rigueur que la France ajournât les réformes financières, les remaniements d'impôts qu'elle doit accomplir dans ce pays pour y ramener l'aisance d'abord, la prospérité plus tard. Ce qu'on ne comprendrait pas, c'est qu'elle renouât à y faire régner tout de suite l'ordre et la sécurité. Or, encore une fois il n'y a pas de gouvernement, pas d'administration possible avec le régime Consulaire. Il faut se résigner à laisser les Turcs, à ne faire ni autrement ni mieux qu'eux, ou se débarrasser sans retard des Capitulations. Or ignore-t-on en France ce que c'est qu'un Consul d'Orient? Il n'y a pas. Avec saïbir, pas de Ministre, pas même de Souverain qui ait une autorité réelle et la sienne. À véritable potentat, il détient une partie du pouvoir du Gouvernement auquel il est attaché, et cette partie est d'autant plus grande qu'il est le seul ne pas mourir et qu'il se mêle avec plus de hardiesse, soit sur les droits de l'État, soit sur ceux des colonies. Il dispute l'influence. Sa souveraineté est en partie double: elle s'exerce à la fois sur ses nationaux et sur le pays dans lequel il est établi. Mais elle n'est réelle qu'en ce qui concerne ce dernier. Les Capitulations faisant du Consul un maître sans contrôle des nationaux, théoriquement ils n'ont d'existence, de biens, de sécurité que par lui; il peut les juger, les emprisonner, les traiter comme il lui plaît. Mais il faut reconnaître que, dans la pratique, il est plutôt leur jouet et leur instrument. Lorsque, par

le système des Capitulations, les Puissances Orientales avaient obtenu des Puissances Orientales des concessions énormes au profit des Européens, il avait été entendu qu'en revanche ces Européens ne pourraient être que des hommes choisis, placés sous une tutelle sévère, payant un cautionnement avant de s'embarquer pour le Levant, et qu'on rapatrierait au plus vite à la moindre faute, au moindre écart de conduite. Le Conseil était donc une sorte de censeur dont la juridiction, aussi attentive, devait réprimer toute fraude commise au détriment des pays qui voulaient s'ouvrir au commerce aux Européens une hospitalité exceptionnelle, privilégiée, telle que nulle part ailleurs il n'en existât. Les lois n'ont pas varié depuis le dix-septième siècle, mais hélas ! les mœurs ont subi des révolutions profondes. Aujourd'hui les étrangers en Orient sont formés d'éléments variés, multiples, de toutes les parties du monde. Il en résulte que les lois, qui étaient faites pour des hommes par la force des choses, ne peuvent plus servir à protéger la tête d'une population de fortune par des moyens accusés de manquer de pureté dans la métropole, à se faire le serviteur des plus tristes intérêts. De là ces scènes à la fois grotesques et tragiques que les journaux à scandale se sont plus à mettre en lumière depuis quelques mois. De là ces affaires venues, ces entreprises qui paraissent criminelles en Europe, et pour lesquelles en Orient les Conseils de plus en plus Puissances entrent en campagne.

[illegible]

Je signalerais encore un danger des Consuls qui produît en Orient des effets désastreux, bien qu'en Tunisie, à ce qu'on m'a dit, il n'existe presque pas; je veux

parler de l'organisation du Drogmanat. Je n'hésite point à dire que le Drogmanat, tel qu'il est pratiqué, est une des plaies de la diplomatie. Il est indispensable de prendre des Drogmans dans le pays même de chaque Consulat, car les Pédicuteurs Européens n'ont malheureusement pas assez d'Agents sachant l'Arabe et le Turc pour se passer des services de ces derniers. Les Drogmans sont des hommes de bien, mais ils ne sont pas des hommes de bien dans tous les pays qui, la plupart du temps, ne méritent aucune confiance et leur font commettre bien des sottises.

[illegible][illegible]

tiennent, s'imaginent que l'honneur de leur pays est engagé au succès de leurs affaires les plus contestables, et que si un de leurs compatriotes n'est pas victorieux, c'est une honte dans l'œuvre de l'exploitation sans merci ni mesure des qu'on s'occupe d'orientales, il fait œuvre de mauvais citoyen. C'est la doctrine des Consuls, et de là viennent leurs conflits avec les chefs de service, qui se préoccupent de rétablir ou de maintenir quelque ordre, quelque moralité dans les affaires. Les intérêts individuels sont confusés.

Le but est tout, les moyens sont les mêmes. Les uns veulent par la force, les autres par la douceur, assurer à un nat ou à une concession. Les uns veulent par la force, les autres par la douceur, assurer à un nat ou à une concession. Les uns veulent par la force, les autres par la douceur, assurer à un nat ou à une concession.

Quel que soit le moyen, il faut bien que les intérêts individuels soient confusés. Les uns veulent par la force, les autres par la douceur, assurer à un nat ou à une concession. Les uns veulent par la force, les autres par la douceur, assurer à un nat ou à une concession. Les uns veulent par la force, les autres par la douceur, assurer à un nat ou à une concession.

GABRIEL CHARMES.

No. 110.

Earl Grant He to Viscount Lyons

(N. 780)

My Lord,

Paris Office, July 1, 1881

I HAVE to request your Excellency to press M. de Freycinet for a reply to the communication relative to the Sfax claims which I instructed you to present to the French Government by despatch No. 109 of the 5th May last, and which was the first of the series of communications upon which you reported in your despatch No. 112 of the 13th of that month.

I am, &c.
GRANVILLE.

No. 111.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 111. Confidential)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 27, 1882.

M. ORDEGA read to me yesterday a telegram he had received from the Governor of Algeria, informing him that the insurgent Chiefs Cid Solyman, Bou Amra, and Cid Kadir Ben Hamza had assembled a large force on the Moroccan frontier, with the intention of crossing the frontier upon the Algerine territory, and that he was directed to give notice to the Moroccan Government, as serious consequences may ensue. M. Ordega said he did not think the Sultan had the power to prevent these Chiefs invading the Algerine territory.

I observed to M. Ordega that, as the Sultan had consented that French forces should attack and pursue the insurgents within the Sultan's territory, it was a proof that His Majesty sincerely desired to meet the wishes of the French Government, and that these Chiefs should be annihilated.

M. Ordega informed me that when he was at Morocco a deputation from the population of Figuig had waited upon him and had expressed their anxious desire to reopen friendly and commercial relations with the French in Algeria; but that he had told them that, after their conduct in attacking, in the beginning of this year, the French force which was pursuing the Algerian insurgents, he declined to listen to their proposals.

M. Ordega appeared to intimate that the population of Figuig would be disposed to place themselves under French protection.

I have the honour to transmit a telegram from Oran of the 25th June, inserted in a Spanish official which corroborates the language held by M. Ordega.

Yesterday evening I met the Sherreef of Wazan, Hadj Al-Sherreef, who had returned from his mission to Algeria and to the insurgent Chiefs a few days before. He had been for the Moroccan frontier, but as the Sherreef had been delayed on his arrival, I did not catch him on his return from him the result of his mission. He informed me that he had succeeded in convincing the three Chiefs, Cid Solyman, Cid Kadir Ben Hamza, and Cid Bou Amra, that they should not attack the French, and that they should not attack the French, and that they should not attack the French. He informed me that he had succeeded in convincing the three Chiefs, Cid Solyman, Cid Kadir Ben Hamza, and Cid Bou Amra, that they should not attack the French, and that they should not attack the French, and that they should not attack the French.

The Sherreef said to me that he had remonstrated with the authorities at Oran on account of the conduct of this Colonel, especially as it was at the desire of the French Government who had advanced a considerable sum of money to pay the expenses of his journey—that he had endeavoured to induce the insurgent Chiefs to give their submission.

The Sherreef observed that it was to be regretted that the Colonel had attacked the Chiefs, or the French Government, as the Sultan might have accused him of having joined the insurgents with the intention of committing an aggression upon French territory.

The Sherreef said that he had urged the insurgent Chiefs to give their submission to the French Government if they desired it, but that it was his conviction that, though the French civilian authorities in Algeria are very anxious that a cessation of these acts of aggression should be brought about, yet that the military Chiefs will never allow it, as they would be thus deprived of the glory and honour they hope to obtain by the continuance of hostilities.

The Sherreef expressed his opinion that, however large a force the French might send, they would never succeed in taking the Algerian Chiefs prisoners, who, he said, would be able to escape by the Moroccan frontier, but, if pursued by cavalry, the Arabs—who are not possessed of the same means of escape as the Algerians—would turn and rout the French, as had frequently happened, even when the French cavalry was more numerous.

The Sherreef expressed his opinion that the aim of the French military commanders

* See No. 59.

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T

is to find an excuse to take possession of Figuig and Taflelt, near which towns it is desired the projected railway to Soudan should pass.

He informed me that it is reported that a relative of the Sultan, residing at Taflelt, had joined or was about to join the insurgents, and in such case, he said, we may probably hear, ere long, that he is put forward as a Pretender to the throne.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY

Inclosure in No. 111

Telegram from Oran, of June 22, inserted in the Spanish Journal "La Correspondencia de España"

(Translation)

AN important meeting has taken place of delegates from the villages and oasis of Figuig, in which they decided to request the French Government to renew friendly commercial relations with Algeria, which had been interrupted by the aggressions of the three Marabets.*

It is believed that France will accede to the said petition, on account of the excessive misery which prevails amongst the inhabitants of Figuig and the neighbouring districts. The meeting decided also on giving a favourable reception to French troops in case they should come to the oasis but not to let them enter the villages.

No. 112.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 40)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 6, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Cambon, the French Minister Resident, arrived here yesterday from France.

M. Cambon paid a visit this morning to the Bey, and, in the name of the President of the French Republic, presented his Highness with a jewelled sword of honour which he had himself brought from Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 113

Acting Consul Vadala to Earl Granville.—(Received July 22)

E

(No. 13. Consular.)

My Lord,

Bengal, June 13, 1882

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a note which I and my colleagues of Ainschiff, Paris, 1910, have signed collectively yesterday, the 12th inst., with the object of bringing to the knowledge of our respective Governments the sad state of affairs and the position of the non-Mussulman population of Egypt, and the danger which they may find themselves in the event of affairs in Egypt becoming more and more dangerous to Christians.

In informing your Excellency, in conclusion, that the Maltese colony in this city amounts to about 200 persons, I have, &c.

(Signed) G. VADALA.

No. 111*.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord,

Tunis, July 3, 1882

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 9 of the 23rd ultimo, with reference to the instructions your Lordship had been pleased to give me as to the course I should pursue in my communications with the Tunisian Government and M. Roustan, the intermediary between that Government and the foreign Representatives.

I beg, in reply, to state that in the communications which I am called upon from day to day to make to the Government, I have followed the rule of procedure which has long been observed here, that is to say, I have addressed myself to the first official Representative of the Bey, who, besides doing the office of Prime Minister, and notwithstanding the *de facto* control of the French Representative, is the acknowledged Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of His Highness.

Communications from the Tunisian Government, when made in a written form, reach me generally through the channel of the French Minister Resident in his character of the Bey's intermediary. When made verbally I receive them from the Prime Minister himself and sometimes from the Bey in person.

This course is strictly conformable with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 38 of the 14th June last, and confirmed on the 5th of the following month of July by your Lordship's despatch No. 44, and looking to the vastness and frequently complicated nature of the business that has to be transacted with the local authorities, any change of system would be a source of great inconvenience, under existing circumstances, in my opinion.

It is scarcely necessary that I should state that, whenever referred by the Bey's Government to the French Representative for the communication of its views, I have never hesitated to communicate with him accordingly.

In conclusion I have only to add that, owing to the friendly character of my relations with the French authorities I have been able, on several occasions and with advantage to the public service, to confer with them in a private and confidential way, upon matters of official communication between the Bey's Government and myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

* Lord Seymour, Lord Amarna, and Lord Kinnaird.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Note addressed to their respective Governments by the Consular Agents of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, and Italy, on the 13th July.

LES soussignés Représentants des Puissances Étrangères à Benghazi ont cru convenable pour le bien de leurs administrés, ainsi que de leurs intérêts, de se réunir dans le but de porter à la connaissance de leurs Gouvernements respectifs l'état dans lequel pourraient se trouver les non-Musulmans établis en cette ville par suite d'une explosion du fanatisme Musulmane, encouragé par les derniers événements survenus en Égypte, dont les frontières sont à quelques journées de marche de cette ville.

Ils croient porter humblement à la connaissance de qui de droit que la ville de Benghazi étant ouverte et exposée à un coup de main de la part des Bedouins, qui seraient parfaitement bien encouragés et secondés par les Musulmans habitants de la ville ;

Qu'ils n'espèrent aucune protection de la part de la garnison de cette ville, qui, outre à son infériorité, n'atteignant pas le chiffre de 250 hommes, est composée presque toute de soldats Arabes (Syriens), en relation continuelle avec les indigènes, et qui fort probablement à un moment donné serait peut-être la première à leur être hostile ;

Que le port de Benghazi n'est fréquenté qu'à des intervalles assez longs et très incertains par des navires Européens pouvant servir de refuge en cas de danger ;

Admettant même qu'il y en eût de disponibles, le port ne trouvant un peu éloigné de la ville, et outre cet inconvénient il y a que tout navire d'un assez gros tonnage est obligé de mouiller sur une rade fort étendue, par conséquent, la présence de navires de commerce serait tout à fait inutile ;

Si la ville de Benghazi fut en communication télégraphique avec l'Europe, ce serait encore une facilité pour demander secours dans un cas urgent, mais heureusement cet avantage de communication rapide manque ;

Depuis quelque temps le fanatisme Musulman s'accroît de plus en plus par suite de rapports exagérés que des personnes et des lettres venant d'Égypte répandent parmi la population ;

Il est à craindre que si la position en Égypte s'aggrave contre les Européens la même chose n'ait lieu ici, la population Musulmane de cette ville n'étant pas à l'abri des événements qui se développent dans cette Viceroyauté, à laquelle elle est en relations très suivies et qui a l'idée fixe que ces faits ne sont que le commencement du démembrement de l'Empire Ottoman ;

Que déjà une certaine terreur panique règne parmi les Européens de cette ville qui ont été menacés soit directement, soit indirectement, par des Musulmans, et qui se sont adressés à leurs aïdes les Consulaires pour prendre des mesures nécessaires pour assurer leur tranquillité ;

Que le Corps Consulaire s'est empressé de porter ces faits à la connaissance du Gouverneur-Général de ce vilayet en le priant de parer à cet état de choses, mais malgré cela la situation tend plutôt à s'aggraver ;

En soumettant à la considération de vos Gouvernements respectifs les faits qui précèdent, les soussignés croient devoir ajouter, enfin, que le nombre de la population non-Musulmane du Vilayet de Benghazi qui pourrait être en danger, en cas d'une explosion du fanatisme, est d'environ 800 personnes.

(Signé)

EUG. RICARD, Vice-Consul de France

G. VADALA, British Acting Consul.

P. PETROVICH, I. & R. Vice-Consul
Autro-Ung.

ROSSONI, Agente Consolare d'Italia.

Benghazi, le 12 Juillet, 1882.

No. 114.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, July 11, 1882

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the news of the disturbances, and massacre of Europeans at Alexandria, on the 11th ultimo, has occasioned a panic amongst the European colony here, who have been, ever since, leaving in small numbers by every ship for Malta and the coast of Tunis. Yesterday upwards of 200 people left

for Malta by the French and Italian mail-boats, the greater part of them being Maltese, chiefly women and children.

I have done my best to calm the fears of the Maltese and to discourage them from leaving the country, and I trust the panic may gradually subside.

Nothing has occurred here to justify so much alarm; and although the defiant attitude of Arabi Pasha and his followers had somewhat elated the fanatical portion of the Mussulman population here, whilst the presence of 200,000 Tunisian refugees in this province, together with a large garrison of armed, unpaid, Turkish soldiers, creates a general feeling of uneasiness, there have been no serious outrages of any kind against Europeans, and perfect order is maintained, the local and Consular authorities working in harmony for this object.

The Vali, with whom I have several times conferred on the subject, assures me that he guarantees the safety of British subjects and of all Europeans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 115.

Mr. Wingfield to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 24.)

My Lord,
I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you, for the consideration of Lord Granville, the enclosed copy of a telegram received from the Governor of Malta, reporting a request for protection by British subjects at Benghazi.
I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD

Inclosure in No. 115.

Governor of Malta to the Earl of Kimberley.

(Telegraphic.)
MALTA, July 24, 1882.
BRITISH subjects Benghazi ask protection, fearing imminent Mussulman outbreak. Admiral informed. Requested to allow gun-boat en route Alexandria to touch Benghazi. Petition by mail.

No. 116.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 422.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 25, 1882, 7.15 P.M.
ACTING CONSUL at Benghazi reports that a Mussulman outbreak is apprehended there and that Austrian, Italian, and French Consuls have represented to their Governments on the 12th instant necessity for protection.

Admiral at Malta has accordingly been authorized to order a vessel to call there on her way to Alexandria and communicate with Acting Consul, if it can be conveniently managed.

Concert with your colleagues, and represent to the Porte the necessity of taking proper measures for protection of European inhabitants, who cannot count upon the small Arab garrison of 250 men.

No. 117.

*Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.**

(No. 521.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, July 25, 1882, 7.16 P.M.
MY telegram to Lord Dufferin No. 442 respecting apprehended outbreak at Benghazi.
Ask Government to which you are accredited what view it takes of the appeal of the Consuls.

* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 249), and Sir A. Paget (No. 207).

No. 118.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 426. Ext. 452.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 25, 1882

THE Acting British Consul at Benghazi has reported that there are apprehensions of an outbreak among the Mussulmans at that place, and that representations were made on the 12th instant by the Austrian, Italian, and French Consuls to their Governments, urging the necessity for protection.

Authority has accordingly been given to the Admiral at Malta to order one of Her Majesty's ships to call at Benghazi on her way to Alexandria, if convenient, and to communicate with the Acting Consul.

I have to instruct your Excellency to make representations on the subject to the Sublime Porte, in concert with your colleagues, and to point out the necessity for taking proper steps for the protection of the European inhabitants of Benghazi, where the small garrison of 250 Arab soldiers is not to be relied upon in case of an outbreak.

I inclose copies of the correspondence which has passed on this subject."

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 119.

Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.†

(No. 891. Ext. 521.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 25, 1882.

I HAVE already caused to be repeated to your Excellency my telegram to Lord Dufferin of this day's date, referring to a report received from the British Acting Consul at Benghazi, that a Mussulman outbreak was apprehended there, and that the Consuls of Austria, Italy, and France had represented to their Governments the necessity for protection.

Your Excellency will be good enough to ask the Government to which you are accredited what view they take of the appeal of the Consuls.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 120.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 891.)

My Lord,

Paris, July 25, 1882

WITH reference to my despatches No. 412 of the 13th May last and No. 894 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency a copy of a note from M. de Freycinet on the subject of the Sfax claims.

The note says that, from a feeling of humanity, the French Government is disposed to recommend the Government of the Bey of Tunis to take from the extraordinary contributions paid by the insurgents a sum equal to two-thirds of the amount fixed by the Sfax Commission, the said sum to be divided among the claimants by the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 120

M. de Freycinet to Viscount Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 18 Juillet, 1882

VOTRE Excellence a bien voulu me rappeler que mon prédécesseur avait assuré des intentions où était le Gouvernement de la République d'examiner avec le soin le plus scrupuleux les réclamations auxquelles pourrait donner lieu, de la part de certains sujets

† Also to Sir A. Paget (No. 249, Ext. 269), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 211, Ext. 249).

‡ Not printed.

Britanniques, la conduite des opérations militaires en Tunisie. Votre Excellence en se fondant sur ces assurances, m'a communiqué la liste des Anglais ou protégés Anglais qui ont subi des pertes lors de l'occupation de Sfax, et dont les demandes ont déjà été examinées par la Commission Internationale d'Esquadrille réunie l'année dernière.

Le Gouvernement Français n'a pas changé d'avis depuis l'époque où mon prédécesseur vous arrivait la lettre à laquelle vous faites allusion. Mais, dans un sentiment d'humanité, sommes-nous disposés à recommander au Gouvernement Beylical de prélever sur les contributions extraordinaires payées par les insurgés une somme égale aux deux tiers du chiffre arrêté par la Commission.

Cette somme serait répartie directement par les autorités Tunisiennes entre les intéressés.

Le Gouvernement de la Reine appréciera, je n'en doute pas, le sentiment qui nous a inspirés dans le règlement de cette question.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 121.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 23.)

E
My Lord,

Admiralty, July 26, 1882

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to Earl Granville that a telegram from the Governor of Malta having been forwarded to this Department on the 24th instant by the Colonial Office, stating that the British subjects at Bengazi asked protection, fearing a Mussulman outbreak, and asking that a vessel might be allowed to run there, my Lords have directed the Commander-in-Chief at Alexandria to cause some vessel of war to call at Bengazi en route to Malta, to communicate with the British Consul, and report the state of affairs there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 121^a.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 28, 5.5 P.M.)

(No. 70)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, July 28, 1882, 4.50 P.M.

THE Austrian Government have received no intimation from their Consul of an apprehended outbreak at Bengazi, but they consider it quite proper to ask the Porte to take any necessary measures for the protection of the Christian population.

No. 122.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received July 29.)

E
(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, July 21, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2, Political, of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship, that after that date the panic amongst the Europeans here increased in an almost unaccountable manner, the exodus continuing by every opportunity. On the 17th and 18th instant as many as 400 Europeans left by four steamers for Malta.

Muttered threats by fanatics and the circulation of absurd and alarming rumours have contributed much to this state of things. The well disposed and better class of natives became uneasy, thinking that Europeans had received a warning to leave the country, in expectation of an impending attack by some foreign Power.

With some difficulty I induced the Vali to address a Circular to the foreign Consuls here, manifesting his regret at the panic, giving his assurances that there was no cause for alarm, and expressing his determination to prevent any disturbance of the peace. On the 19th instant, on the receipt of this Circular, I immediately conferred with my colleagues of France and Italy, and we posted identical notices, referring to the Vali's Circular, reassuring Europeans, and recommending them to give no credence to false

No. 123°.

Earl Granville to Mr. Rende.

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 5, 1882.

IN my despatch No. 9 of the 2nd June I directed you to report whether, since the appointment of M. Cambon as French Resident, you had continued to follow the instructions which I addressed to you on the 31st July last year with regard to your communications with the Tunisian Government.

I have received your despatch No. 38 of the 1st ultimo, explaining your mode of proceeding, and I have to point out to you that by the instructions of the 5th July of last year you were directed to communicate with the French Resident on all matters, whether relating to the foreign or political affairs, or to the other business of the Tunisian Government, taking care, in all such communications, to deal with the Resident as the Tunisian intermediary, and not in his Consular capacity. You do not appear, however, to have followed the course which my instructions prescribed, for in your despatch of the 3rd ultimo you state that, in the communications which you are called upon from day to day to make to the Tunisian Government, you have followed the procedure long observed, viz., you have addressed yourself to the first official Representative of the Bey, the Prime Minister, who, you state, is at the same time the acknowledged Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but that whenever you have been referred by the Bey's Government to the French Resident for the communication of its views you have communicated with him accordingly.

I have to instruct you to report at once whether or not the German and any other foreign Representatives transact business directly with the French Resident as Foreign Minister of the Bey.

Her Majesty's Government are aware that Italy has not accepted, as this country has done, the position of the French Resident as intermediary between the Bey of Tunis and the foreign Agents, and the course pursued by the Italian Agent would therefore not have any analogy with the mode of proceeding followed by the Agents of the other Powers who may have recognized the position of the French Resident.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

rumours, but to continue to attend to their affairs. This had a good effect, especially on the natives, discouraging the notion that Europeans were leaving at the instigation of the Consuls. The following day the news of the taking of Alexandria by Admiral Seymour, and the flight of Arabi Pasha, had an excellent effect in tranquillizing the Europeans; and as was to be expected, a very marked sobering effect on the fanatical Mussulmans. Many Europeans have discontinued their preparations for departure and have resumed their occupations.

During the last five weeks as many as 800, or about one-third of the European Colony have left, about three-fourths being Maltese, which is about the proportion British subjects here bear to the rest of the European community.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 123.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 29, 1882.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by Earl Granville to request that you will state to the Earl of Kimberley, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna telegraphs that the Austrian-Hungarian Government have received no report from their Consul that an outbreak at Bengazi is to be apprehended.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 124.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 681.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, July 31, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 654 of the 26th instant,* I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note I have addressed to the Sublime Porte, calling its attention to the insecure state of the Christian population at Bengazi.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 124.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Said Pasha.**Thessalonica, July 28, 1882.*

HER Majesty's Embassy has been informed by the Acting British Consul at Bengazi that a Mussulman outbreak is apprehended there, and that the Austrian, Italian, and French Consuls have represented to their Governments, on the 12th instant, the necessity of protection. The Admiral at Malta has accordingly been authorized to order a vessel to go there on her way to Alexandria, and communicate with the British Acting Consul there if it can be conveniently managed.

Her Majesty's Embassy has been accordingly instructed by Her Majesty's Government to represent to the Sublime Porte the necessity of taking measures for the protection of the European inhabitants of Bengazi, who cannot count upon the small Arab garrison of 250 men.

Since the foregoing was written, Her Majesty's Embassy has heard that the Italian Consul reports that the excitement is subsiding.

* Not printed.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 120.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 2, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, from letters I have received from the Sultan's camp and from Mogador, I learn that the Sultan had proceeded as far south as Aglou, a distance of about fifteen hours' ride north of Wadnoon, and from thence he had dispatched his brother with a small mounted force to Wadnoon, from which place they had already returned on the 19th ultimo.

All accounts combine in stating that the Sultan had met with a general welcome throughout the Province of Soos, and that he had succeeded in gaining to himself the good-will of the inhabitants, who evinced the strongest desire that a port should be opened to trade in their country.

Owing to the very defective organization of the commissariat, the Sultan's army had suffered much from sickness, and there had been a very heavy loss in animals of transport.

The country is described to be in a dreadful state from want of rain, it having suffered from four consecutive years of drought.

The Sultan was, at the latest date, on his homeward march, and was expected to arrive at Morocco early in the present month.

It is stated that His Majesty has decided to open a port to commerce on the coast of Ait Amran, south of Iny, and near to Wadnoon, but the exact spot is not positively known. Consul Payton reports from Mogador that a Royal letter had been received by the local authorities at that post, informing them that His Majesty had been well met with enthusiasm by the tribes through which he had passed, and announcing the opening of a port, but Mr. Payton states that the authorities to whom the Royal letter was addressed did not appear to know its exact site.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

No. 126.

Mr. H. Lee, M.P., to Sir Charles W. Dilke.—(Received August 9.)

Dear Sir Charles,

House of Commons, August 9, 1882.

I BEG to inclose you extract from our last letter from Cape Juby.

Yours truly,

(Signed) HENRY LEE.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Extract of Letter received from D. Mackenzie, dated July 10, 1882.

I RECEIVED, by the last French steamer, a letter from Mogador, dated the 5th July, in reference to the Moorish expedition. This gentleman went as far as Aguedier; he informs me that the Sultan of Morocco is now supposed to be at Taradant, on his way to Wad Mezza and Wad Noon, from thence it is said that he will proceed to Cape Juby, to turn us out. This is only a report. The Spanish corvette "Tornado" has gone to Agadir, having a Moorish Envoy on board who has been on a visit to the Spanish Court, to meet the Sultan and report on his Mission. The steam-ship "Greenwood," steam-ship "Amélie" (French), "Risca," and the schooner "Jessie Shuttleworth" have been, or are now, at Agadir. The French steamer "Amélie" has been chartered by the Moorish Government for two months, to convey grain, &c., to Agadir and south.

It appears that the Moorish Commissariat Department has fallen through; the soldiers are suffering terribly. Of the 20,000 which, it is said, forms the Sultan's expedition, 6,000 are said to have died through hunger and thirst. My own opinion is that the expedition will fail in its object. My correspondent at Mogador writes me this information in a private letter, and therefore trusts that you will not make any use of his name. I have heard that the Sultan has beheaded many Chiefs in the Soos district, in order to strike terror into the rest. I think the English Government should send a gun-boat, to watch the movements of the Moorish Sultan and to protect our station should we

stand in need of it. In any case the Sultan should receive a warning that he must not interfere with our operations at Cape Juby. We shall, no doubt, be able to take care of ourselves should we be attacked; still, it is the duty of Government to afford us proper assistance in the face of this information.

No. 127.

Sir Charles W. Dilke to Mr. H. Lee, M.P.

Dear Mr. Lee,

Foreign Office, August 9, 1882.

I AM much obliged to you for the extract from Mr. Mackenzie's letter.

I observe that he states that a gun-boat should be sent to protect the station, if necessary; and he adds, "It is the duty of Government to afford us proper assistance."

I need not remind you that Her Majesty's Government have assumed no responsibility with regard to your settlement, and have often warned British subjects that if they go to uncivilized and savage countries it must be at their own risk and peril.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES W. DILKE.

No. 128.

Consul Payton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Mogador, August 4, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of despatch No. 5 of the 18th July last,* transmitting a copy of a despatch from Sir J. Drummond Hay, and stating your Lordship's opinion that it will not be advisable for me to visit Agadir without special permission.

I have the honour now to solicit the granting of such special permission on the following grounds:—

1. My despatch to Sir John Drummond Hay would appear not to have been sufficiently explicit.

The authorities at Agadir, when I went there in May last, raised no objections to my landing; on the contrary, they invited me and my companions to land, and treated us most hospitably. But they had no instructions to allow Europeans to visit the town of Agadir, and therefore discountenanced our doing so.

The people appeared most friendly,

Since the visit of the Sultan and his army to the south, this restriction appears to have been removed, and Europeans who have gone there on business have visited the town freely, the natives appearing everywhere delighted to welcome them.

2. The latest news here conveyed by a Royal letter read to a meeting of merchants convened at the Custom-house on the 2nd instant is that merchants here may ship food-stuffs for three months from that date for "Agadir and the ports of Ait Bou Amma."

It appears probable that Asaka and Ifni are meant by the latter.

I am also informed by the Custom-house officials that one port will be permanently opened for general trade when the necessary building and other works are completed.

It is probable that these three months of grain exportation may be intended partly as an experiment for the purpose of practically ascertaining which of the various localities named is the most suitable for a port.

Accurate information on these subjects can, I respectfully submit, best be obtained by my visiting the district.

3. A Sheikh from Ifni called upon me this morning, and expressed his great delight and that of his tribe at hearing that the place was to be opened and visited by Europeans, especially the English, for whom he professed the greatest friendship.

He spoke of Ifni as the most suitable place for a port, and said that the mountains in the neighbourhood were very rich in minerals, including gold, silver, copper, and iron. The expected removal of the existing prohibition of the export of minerals and the consequent opening of mines in various parts of the Empire, will go far to increase its civilization and prosperity by developing immense natural resources hitherto neglected, encouraging European enterprise, and affording work to the thousands who are now suffering, if not actually starving, from the prevalent agricultural and commercial depression.

* Not printed.

4. The first steamer which takes cargo for the southern ports will probably call first at Agadir, and I venture to hope that a report from me on the new district would not be found devoid of interest, while at the same time I would promise not to land at any port or visit any town where the authorities were inclined to disapprove of such landing or visit, and generally to observe that conciliatory and considerate behaviour in all my intercourse with the Mahomedan population by which I have hitherto secured and retained their friendship and esteem.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

P.S.—I am just informed, on good authority, that it is quite decided to open a port at Assaka, and that a plan has been approved for building 400 houses on one side of the river there and 300 on the other.

Also, that an expedition has been sent against Mr. Mackenzie's settlement at Cape Juby. The Cadi of that district paid his respects to the Sultan.

C A P.

No. 129.

Consul Payton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

Mogador, August 11, 1882.

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph of my despatch No. 12 of the 11th inst., I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have received today information on the subject of the expedition sent by the Sultan to Cape Juby.

It seems that it is not a military expedition sent to attack or turn out Mr. Mackenzie, but a small reconnoitring party—only ten in number, I am informed—commissioned by the Sultan to "go down there and see what Mr. Mackenzie is doing."

They take with them a letter from the Sultan asking, I am told, what is the nature and extent of Mr. Mackenzie's operations, and whether he recognizes the authority of the Sultan over the district in which he is trading.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

No. 130.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 123.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 11, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a Royal Letter, addressed by the Sultan to the Basha of Tangier, was yesterday publicly read in the Great Mosque of this town in the presence of Cid Mohammed Bargash, the Basha, and other local functionaries.

The Sultan, in this letter, announces that on his arrival in Soos he was welcomed by the Kabyles, or tribes, who offered their submission. His Majesty then appointed Cadis for the administration of the religious law.

The Shercefs and Talebs of that province prayed that privileges granted to them by former Sultans might be confirmed, and presented the letters from His Majesty's ancestors, in which these privileges had been accorded. The Sultan having examined these letters, acceded to their prayer.

The Sultan further states that the object of this expedition was to satisfy and tranquillize the tribes of that district by opening a port in Wed Noon, at Assaka, in the Kabyle of Teknat and Ait Bou Amran, thus facilitating the development of their trade.

These tribes presented themselves to His Majesty after he had crossed the River Wulghas, and were received in the neighbourhood of the port called Agloo, in the district of Ait Bou Amran, and about thirteen hours' march from the site proposed for the new port. All the Chiefs and influential persons of the tribes placed themselves under the orders of the Sultan, who appointed a number of Cads.

The letter further states that the Sultan sent military officers of rank, secretaries, and engineers with the Chiefs of the district to mark out the site of the port, and do whatever might be necessary for carrying out the object in view. His Majesty also

appointed a Governor at Kasbah Texinet to facilitate the transaction of business in Soos.

The foregoing is the substance of the Royal Letter.

I learn from a private source that the Sultan had dispatched Cid Mohammed Gebhas with a small party to Cape Juby to see and to report as to what is being done there by Mr. Mackenzie. Cid Mohammed Gebhas is one of the three young Moorish officers who studied at Chatham. He is instructed to inform Mr. Mackenzie that the Sultan has no unfriendly feelings towards him, but that he must understand that Cape Juby is a part of His Majesty's dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

No. 131.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 346.)

My Lord,

Naples, August 17, 1882.

M. MANCINI referred, in his visit to me yesterday, to a report which had appeared in some foreign newspapers to the effect that confidential negotiations were proceeding relative to a eventual occupation of Tripoli by Italy. His Excellency professed himself entirely hostile to a count for such reports, which he said were absolutely without the shadow of foundation, in so far, at least, as the Italian Government was concerned, and he had taken steps, he said, to have the reports publicly contradicted. He scouted the bare notion of Italy ever embarking in any such enterprise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 132.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 43.)

My Lord,

Tunis, August 16, 1882.

SOME days after transmission of my reply (No. 38 of the 3rd ultimo) to your Lordship's despatch No. 9 of the 23rd June last, respecting the channel of communication through which I corresponded with the Tunisian Government, I had some friendly conversation with M. Cambon on the subject. On that gentleman's asking whether, in the event of my being invited to do so by the Bey himself, I should be required to address to him (M. Cambon) all such communications as were intended for His Highness' Government, I replied in the affirmative, reserving, however, the liberty to act according to whatever instructions I might hereafter receive from Her Majesty's Government.

A letter to the effect indicated by M. Cambon has accordingly reached me from the Bey, and I have the honour to inclose a translation of it, together with a copy of my reply.

For the reasons stated in my former despatch (No. 38 of the 3rd ultimo), I cannot but view with apprehension the change of procedure now established in the matter of my official communications with this Government. Among the disadvantages involved in that change is the one of coming more completely under the influence of M. Summaripa, the Premier Drogman Interpreter of the French Residency, who was so prominently associated with all the principal incidents of M. Roustan's career in this country, and is consequently regarded with very general distrust.

I have only to add, in conclusion, that no letter similar to the one to which I have referred as addressed by the Bey to myself has reached either my Italian or Spanish colleague, and that these gentlemen continue therefore to communicate directly with the Bey's Principal Minister on all matters affecting their relations with the Government of this Regency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 132

His Highness the Bey of Tunis to Mr. Reade.

(Translation.)

Louange à Dieu!

August 9, 1882.

DÉ la part du serviteur de Dieu; de celui qui met en Lui sa confiance et Lui re met le soin de ses destinées, le Mouchir Mohamed Essadok Bacha Bey possesseur du royaume de la Tunisie.

Au respecté, l'honoré, le parfait, &c., M. Thomas Reade, Agent et Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique à Tunis, notre capitale. Ensuite, nous avons pris connaissance de la lettre que vous avez adressée à notre Premier Ministre en date du 24 Juillet, 1882, concernant la réclamation de la Compagnie du Gaz, que nous avons prise en considération. Nous avons envoyé votre lettre sous le sceau de M. le Ministre chargé par nous des affaires étrangères de notre Gouvernement, afin qu'elle soit soumise à l'examen que mérite la question qu'elle renferme.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous faire savoir que, comme notre extrême désir est de ne pas prolonger les questions, nous espérons que le mieux serait de vous adresser, à l'avenir, pour les questions qui regardent notre Gouvernement, au Ministre chargé par nous des affaires étrangères, vu que ce moyen facilitera la solution des affaires, conformément à notre Décret émané dans ce sens en date du mois de Redjeb de l'année passée et dont vous recevrez ci inclus copie.

Demeurez dans la confiance de Dieu.

Écrit en date du 26 Ramadan, 1299 (August 9, 1882)

(En tête se trouve le sceau de Son Altesse le Bey.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 132

Décret en date du 11 Redjeb, 1298, adresse à M. le Ministre-Résident de France à Tunis.

EN vertu des Articles IV, V, et VI du Traité intervenu entre notre Gouvernement et celui de la République Française, l'intermédiaire du Ministre de la République étant devenu indispensable dans les relations de notre Ministère pour les affaires étrangères avec les Représentants des Puissances amies, et dans le desir de ne pas prolonger les questions et faciliter leur solution, nous avons chargé le Ministre-Résident de la République à Tunis pour être l'intermédiaire officiel dans nos relations avec les Représentants des Puissances amies. C'est en conséquence par nous et par M. le Ministre-Résident de la République Française à Tunis de donner avis officiel de notre présent Décret à la République Française et aux Représentants des Puissances amies.

Inclosure 3 in No. 132

Mr. Reade to His Highness the Bey of Tunis.

Highness,

Tunis, August 16, 1882

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Highness' letter dated the 26th Ramadan, 1299 (9th August, 1882), with reference to a petition I had submitted to your Highness' Government from the Gas Company of this city.

Your Highness in that letter is pleased to recommend that, with a view to facilitate the transaction of business and avoid unnecessary delay, all communications which I may have to make to the Tunisian Government regarding questions or matters of difference awaiting solution, should henceforth be addressed to the Minister who has been specially charged by your Highness with the direction of the foreign affairs of this Regency.

I have transmitted a copy of your Highness' letter to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, subject to the instructions I may hereafter receive on the subject, shall not fail in the meanwhile to act conformably with the above recommendation, it being my particular aim and desire to consult your Highness' wishes on all occasions and in every possible way.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 133.

Mr. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received August 28, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic)

San Ildefonso, August 28, 1882, 2:30 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that French Minister at Tangier has declared to Moorish Government that it is necessary for France to proceed immediately to the occupation of Figuig.

No. 134.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.

(No. 4. Consular.)

Foreign Office, August 20, 1882

Sir, WITH reference to that part of Mr. Payton's despatch No. 12, Consular, of the 6th instant, which relates to Mr. Mackenzie's settlement at Cape Juby, and his despatch No. 15 of the 11th instant, copies of which have been forwarded to you in my despatch No. 5, Commercial, of the 24th instant,* I have to instruct you that the Sultan of Morocco should be warned against committing or sanctioning any attacks on British property at Cape Juby.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 135.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 11.)

Tunis, August 23, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 14 of the 5th instant, recalling attention to the precise terms of your despatch No. 44 of the 6th July, 1881, on the subject of my communications with the Tunisian Government, and remarking upon the apparent inconsistency of the course of procedure I have pursued with that which had been proscribed by your Lordship's instructions.

I beg to express my sincere regret that, as explained in a former communication (my despatch No. 38 of the 3rd July last), I wrongly interpreted your Lordship's instructions in this matter.

I am glad, however, to add that the error has since been happily rectified. In my despatch No. 43 of the 16th instant I reported that, in pursuance of an invitation to that effect from the Bey, I have placed myself in direct communication with the French Resident on all matters relating to the political or other business of this Government.

With regard to the instruction that I should report whether the German and other foreign Representatives transact business directly with the French Resident, I beg to state that, so far as regards the German and every other foreign nationality in Tunis, except the Italian, British, French, and Greek, there are scarcely any other subjects here belonging to those nationalities than the Consuls themselves. Very few, therefore, of the foreign Representatives have any business at all to transact with the Tunisian Government or French Resident. It is not the less certain, however, that my German colleague has publicly recognized M. Cambon's position as the Bey's intermediary for foreign affairs. The same may be said of the Belgian Consul, who, besides being a Frenchman, represents France at the Goletta as Vice-Consul. The remaining Representatives, with the exception of the Italian and Spanish, have not, it appears, received any particular instructions as to the course they should respectively pursue, but they are all, I believe, willing to act in the same manner as the Consuls of Belgium and Germany.

Regarding the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, I may add that his orders are to follow the example of his English colleague in this and other matters relating to the French occupation, and that I have consequently not failed to advise him of the change of procedure to which, in my communication with the Bey's Government, I have, at His Highness' invitation, consented.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE

* Not printed

No. 136.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 1029.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 30, 1882.

I HAVE to state to you that I have received a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, dated the 28th instant, informing me that he has been told by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the French Representative at Tangier has declared to the Moorish Government that it is necessary for France to proceed immediately to the occupation of Figuig, and I should wish you to endeavour to ascertain and report to me as to the truth of this report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE

No. 137

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 16.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 30, 1882

I HAVE received your despatch No. 43 of the 16th instant, enclosing a copy of a note which you had received from the Bey inviting you to address to the French Resident all communications intended for the Tunisian Government. I have to state to you that the terms of the answer which you returned to His Highness on this subject are approved by Her Majesty's Government, and that you should in future act in conformity with his request.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE

No. 138

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 21. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 23, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 6, Commercial, of the 11th instant,* transmitting a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Payton, asking permission to visit a port in the south of Morocco, which has lately been opened to foreign trade, and authorizing me, if I see no objection, to sanction this journey.

Having learnt from Cid Mohammed Bargash that there is no reason why foreign subjects should not visit Agadir and Assaka, at each of which ports Governors and Administrators of Customs have been appointed, I have not hesitated to sanction Mr. Payton's visit to Assaka regarding which very little appears as yet to be known.

I have directed Mr. Payton to charge his expenses in his account current with the Foreign Office, and to send home his report through the Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

No. 139.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 982.)

My Lord,

Paris, September 1, 1882

WITH reference to Mr. Morier's telegram of the 29th ultimo, copy of which reached me in yesterday's confidential print, reporting that the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs had told him that the French Minister at Tangier had declared to the Moorish Government that it is necessary for France to proceed immediately to the occupation of Figuig, I inquired casually of M. Decrais yesterday afternoon what the French were now doing on that frontier.

M. Decrais replied, apparently with sincerity, that there was nothing new there.

* Not printed.

and that the Moorish question was not at present occupying the attention of the French Government.

The Spanish Ambassador, who called on me later in the day, seemed not to be yet aware of anything fresh having occurred in connection with this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 140.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received September 12.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, September 11, 1882.

WITH reference to my letter of the 26th July last, stating that copy of a telegram from the Governor of Malta had been received from the Colonial Office reporting that British subjects at Bengazi were in fear of a Mussulman outbreak, and asked for protection, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to Earl Granville that a telegram has been received from Vice-Admiral Dowell, dated the 8th instant, in which he reports that the "Bittern" had left Alexandria for Malta, with orders to call in at Bengazi on her way.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. TRYON.

No. 141

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 1077.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 13, 1882.

THE French Ambassador spoke to me this afternoon on the subject of a proposed judicial reform in Tunis, observing that he was not instructed or authorized to make any formal communication, but merely to endeavour to ascertain the views of Her Majesty's Government.

M. Tissot said that the French Government intended to establish at Tunis on the 1st January next Tribunals which would render useless the exercise of the rights now existing under the Capitulations. There would be no inconvenience in the change to foreigners, because the object of the Capitulations was to defend foreigners from the injustice to which they would have been exposed by recourse to the Native Courts. The French Government proposed, in fact, to do in Tunis as we had already done in Cyprus, and as the Austrians had done in Bosnia.

I thanked M. Tissot for the communication, and said that, as he knew, we had no undue jealousy of the ascendancy obtained by France in Tunis; but the matter on which he had just spoken was one which required careful consideration before I could express an opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 142

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 1012. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, September 15, 1882

MY Italian colleague inquired of me two days ago whether the French Government had made any proposal to your Lordship, or to me, with reference to the abolition of the Capitulations in Tunis. He said that M. Duclerc had given him to understand that he intended soon making some such proposition to all the Powers interested.

A few minutes previously M. Duclerc had informed me of the communications which he had instructed M. Tissot to make to your Lordship, saying he did not intend to express an opinion, but merely thought it right to let me know that he considered the time had now come when France might fairly ask foreign Powers to accept in Tunis a state of things which would be an improvement on what existed.

To his Excellency I replied that I had indeed foreseen the probability of some such proposal being made, but that I had not yet seen any expression of your Lordship's views on the subject.

To my Italian colleague I replied vaguely that something might have been said to your Lordship, but that I had no information from the Foreign Office.

From the language held by the Italian Chargé d'Affaires I gathered that Italy considers the Capitulations will have to go, but that she is not inclined to facilitate the task for the French Government, and that, in the mean time, she will never recognize the right of the French military authorities to have overridden the Capitulations, which, at all events, are still in existence, by bringing before the French Military Tribunal the Italian subject Meschino, who struck a French soldier.

I said I had seen with regret the excitement which this incident had caused in Italy, and I did my best to make M. Reasman understand the advantages of a conciliatory settlement of the affair.

M. Reasman said he hoped to discover a compromise, but that the feeling in Italy was greatly excited by the overbearing proceedings of the French on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 143.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 1015. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 15, 1882*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch,* I am authorized by M. Decrais to let your Lordship know that the French Government is thinking of yielding to the Italian demand for the whole of the amount fixed by the Sfax Commission.

If this is done, a note will be addressed to Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and, as a matter of course, we shall receive the same as the Italian claimants.

M. Decrais said that the French Government could not admit in any form the question of right to any indemnity, but it was anxious to show consideration to Italy, and to endeavour to live on a less disagreeable footing with that country.

M. Decrais begged that this might be considered quite confidential, and he reserved the entire freedom of the future action of M. Duclerc in this respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 144.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 24. Consular.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September 7, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 4, Consular, of the 29th ultimo, instructing me, with reference to Mr Consul Payton's despatch No. 12, Consular, of the 6th ultimo, and his despatch No. 13 of the 11th ultimo, that the Sultan should be warned against committing or sanctioning any attacks on British property at Cape Juby.

In conformity with this instruction I have addressed a letter to Cid Mohamed Bargash, informing him that there exists at Cape Juby a considerable amount of British property, and I warn the Government of the Sultan of the serious consequences which would ensue should any attack be made on this property in consequence of any steps the Sultan may take to assert his authority in that territory.

I transmit herewith a copy of my letter to Cid Mohamed Bargash.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

* Not printed.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Mr. White to Cid Mohamed Bargash.

(Translation.)

(After the usual compliments.)

Tangier, September 8, 1882.

HER Majesty's Government has learnt with pleasure the successful issue of the Sultan's expedition into Soos, and the announcement that His Majesty has taken steps for opening two ports in that district to foreign trade.

Her Majesty's Government has been informed that a Mission was dispatched by the Sultan, when in Soos, to Cape Juby. The precise object of this Mission is not known, but I am directed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to warn the Government of the Sultan that there exists a considerable amount of British property at Cape Juby, and that it is necessary that this property be respected, as serious consequences would result should any attack be made upon it in consequence of any step that may be taken by the Sultan to assert his authority in that territory.

I request that you will communicate this letter to His Majesty the Sultan. (Peace.)
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

No. 145

Mr. Mackenzie to the North West African Company (Limited).—(Communicated to the Foreign Office, September .)

(Extract.)

Cape Juby, September 11, 1882.

The Moorish Deputation.—You will no doubt be anxious to learn the result of the visit of the Moorish deputation to Cape Juby. The names of the gentlemen who composed it I gave in my letter of the 15th August. In a conversation the deputation had with M. Reas, before my arrival, they stated that they came by order of the Sultan; that the object of their mission was solely for the purpose of having a conference with me, and requested that no one should have the slightest knowledge of what should be said by both parties; they also said the Sultan's views regarding our station were as follows, viz.:—

First. That the Sultan being afraid of having any difficulty with the British nation, he having heard that our house on shore had been burnt by the Arabs, and Cape Juby being part of his dominions it would be a matter of great regret to His Majesty if any mischief should happen to us again.

Secondly. That the Sultan wished to know if I considered myself sufficiently protected and strong by myself alone at Cape Juby without the help of Her Majesty's Government, and, if so, the Sultan wished me to declare him free from any responsibility whatever in case the Arabs cause us any further harm.

On my arrival at Cape Juby on the 17th August, I made inquiries as to the full intentions of the Moorish Mission, and how they conducted themselves after their arrival. I was informed that when they reached Cape Juby they were saluted by the Sheikh Mohammed Bairouk, who paid them a visit; they asked the Sheikh to leave Cape Juby and go to Agadir; this he flatly refused. They endeavoured to prevail on the merchants to leave us and go north, but the principal Chiefs informed them that they would not leave Cape Juby—they would fight first.

They afterwards tried to stop the building on shore until they had seen me; the people told them that they could not do that as I had a letter from the Sultan authorizing me to build. They were frustrated in all their attempts to disturb our work. It must be understood that I do not consider the action of the Arab tribes in our favour was caused through any love for us, but self-interest. They felt that Cape Juby was important to them as being more convenient than any other place on the coast, and the road to it more secure for traders. It has been said that the deputation tried to bribe the merchants and Chiefs to leave.

When Mr. Spiridon came on board he brought with him a letter which the Secretary of the Mission gave him for me. It proved to be a letter of introduction written by a Mr. Maclean from the Sultan's camp Ras-el-Dad; in this letter he introduced to me the Secretary, who spoke English—he had spent some time in England some years ago. I informed the deputation, through Mr. Spiridon, that I should be most happy to receive him on the following day on board. He did not, however, pay me a visit till the 19th. We held our meeting in the ship's cabin. After the usual compliments had passed, the Secretary, El Gobhas, spoke in Arabic, in the name of the deputation, as follows (Mr. Spiridon acted as interpreter):—

The Secretary stated that the Sultan had heard that I was at Cape Juby, and His Majesty had commissioned them to proceed to this place with a view of having a conference.

rence with me regarding our station. The Sultan had heard that we established a port at Cape Juby, and this being part of His Majesty's dominions, he wished to know under what conditions we settled at that place—whether we had entered into any arrangements with any Chief or the people. The Sultan having heard of the burning of our house, and being on friendly terms with the British Government, he did not wish that any further harm should happen to us from the Arabs. They also stated that they heard that I had a letter from the Sultan authorizing me to build at this place. In conclusion, they wished to know if I require the co-operation of the Moorish Sultan to protect Cape Juby.

In reply to their inquiries I stated that it was customary when any Sovereign appointed a Mission to carry out any of his views they were always accompanied by some one well known to the person to whom they were sent, or credentials to show their authority in acting in the name of their Master; this was customary even with houses of business. Therefore, before I could enter into any details, I should require their credentials as a proof that they were duly authorized by His Majesty the Sultan to represent him in this matter. At that question they all seemed to be taken aback and confused; they stated that they were duly authorized by the Sultan, but did not possess any letter from the Sultan to that effect, this not being customary in their country, but they were fully aware it was in mine. They assured me that they were honest men, and did not come to deceive me. I at once told them that I did not think for a moment that they were dishonest. I wished them to discuss such an idea from their minds. I was only pointing out to them the manner in which a matter like this was conducted, and my own position in reference to it. I wished them to understand, as they were not possessed of any credentials, I could not enter into any official relations with them, that is to say, if they made any statements, I should not report it as emanating from the Moorish Sultan. I was not a Sovereign, neither did I in any way represent the British Government, nor acted as a Political Agent, I was only a representative of an English Company trading at this place, and wished to carry on our operations in peace. As they appeared anxious to learn how we came to this place and how we established ourselves for commercial purposes, I had no objection to impart to them general information in this matter.

Some years ago I made known to the British Government my intention of visiting this part of the African coast. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs reported this to the Sultan, asking His Majesty what it was more reason as far south as Cape Juby, to extend to me his protection and goodwill. The Sultan replied, through Sir J. Hay, that he would have much pleasure in complying with the request of the British Government, but that he could not claim any territory south of Wad Noon, and that the border of the country I was about to visit was outside his country. The Sultan afterwards told me that I examined this country and established a trading station. He then explained to the British Government of my object in forming a new trading station, and that which he declared was his intention. This was very much approved by the British Government. I informed them that when we established this station we did so with the consent of the Chief and natives who came at the time. The Sultan did not fail to offer us his co-operation in the early part of the work, now we are well established. It was not true that I had a letter from the Sultan authorizing me to build.

I noted that I did not now wish to refer to the burning of the house which took place some time ago, but the Sultan had been warned by the British Government that they would be held responsible for anything that might happen to life or property at this place emanating directly or indirectly from him.

They asked how our Government could know that any mischief which might arise was due to the Sultan. I answered that it was hardly right for me to reply to this in detail. I might say, generally, that possibly the British Government would to some extent be guided in their actions by such representations as we might make in a matter of this nature, but that on these subjects belong to Government more than to private individuals. This closed our meeting, which lasted only a short time. They all seemed pleased at my explanations, they stated that I spoke frankly and straightforwardly and made everything clear, and of course no one could dispute in holding or doing what we liked. They informed me that they would return to their own country the following morning. I presented them with a few things for their journey, with which they were just pleased. I went on shore the following morning to return their visit, they were just departing when I landed, they expressed themselves well pleased with their visit. They seemed afraid of some of the tribes, they therefore left quickly. The natives on shore were delighted at their departure. Sheikh Barook, other Chiefs, and merchants were also very pleased.

Dobman (the Chief's brother) said he would send us copper ore from Wad Noon, which we hope to receive soon. He made several other promises to aid us in extending

our trade north and south. On the whole, I think the visit of the Moorish deputation strengthened our position in the eyes of the natives and in the country. The information I gave I wished to be conveyed to the Sultan, which, I think, will do us good. I am informed that the Sultan has now returned to his own country. It is said he opened Agadir for trade. I am waiting for further information on this subject. I may state that it is my own opinion that we have nothing much to fear now the expected storm has, I think, passed over.

No. 116.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord,

INTELLIGENCE, received here during the past week, of mounted Arabs scouring the country in the neighbourhood of Kairwan in search of plunder and of a conflict engaged in near that city, between a band of 300 Arabs and a smaller force of French troops, in which the former were dispersed with some loss, appears to be confirmed by a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Sfax, of which I have the honour to herewith transmit a translation.

From other sources I learn that a large insurgent camp, with the headquarters of the Arab Chief Ali Ben Haffa, continues to maintain a defiant attitude in the district (Urghamma) adjoining the Tripolitan frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Vice-Consul Leonardi to Mr. Reade.

(Translation from the Italian.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in the night of yesterday, a battalion of infantry, 130 cavalry, and some artillery, left this town for the interior. This so late sortie is undertaken with the object of forming a junction with other troops that have proceeded from Sfax, Gaxos, Kairwan, and Tressan, in search of the nomadic Arabs who have lately overrun the inland provinces of the Regency, attacking all whom they happened to meet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. LEONARDI.

No. 147.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.

(No. 8. Consular.)

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 24, Consular, of the 7th instant, stating that in conformity with my instructions you had addressed a letter to the M. Harmede Baccus, informing him that there existed at Cape Juby a considerable amount of British property, and you warned the Government of the Sultan of the serious consequences which would ensue should any attack be made on this property in consequence of any steps the Sultan might take to assert his authority in that territory, and I have to inform you that I approve your proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 25. Consular.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 18, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24, Consular, of the 7th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of a letter which I have received from Cid Mohammed Bargash in reply to my letter to him of the 6th instant, warning the Sultan's Government against any attack being made on British property at Cape Juby.

Your Lordship will observe that Cid Mohammed Bargash reaffirms that Cape Juby is within the dominions of the Sultan, and protests against the presence of British property at a spot, which he states is not open to trade, as being an irregularity, and contrary to right and friendship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Cid Mohammed Bargash to Mr. White.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

September 14, 1882.

WE have received your letter of the 6th September, in which you inform us that the British Government has learnt with pleasure the success that had attended the expedition of the Sultan into Soos, and the announcement that His Majesty intends to open two ports in that province to foreign trade. You further state that the British Government has been informed that when the Sultan was in Soos he sent some of his servants to Cape Juby, and that the object of this Mission is not known, but that you are instructed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform the Sultan's Government that a considerable amount of property belonging to British subjects exists at Cape Juby, and that this property must be respected and guarded from harm, for a grave responsibility would result if an attack were made upon it in consequence of any measures the Sultan may wish to take to establish his authority in that territory; and you request us to bring your letter under the notice of the Sultan.

Know, oh our friend, that we will communicate your letter to our Lord; but it is our duty to inform you that in sending this Mission to Cape Juby our Lord was acting within his rights, for Cape Juby is within his territory; and if any property of British subjects exists there, the place is not open to trade, and it is my duty to protect against the presence of the said property in the said place, for its presence there is an irregularity and contrary to right and friendship.

Friendship and peace.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BARGASH.

No. 149.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1059. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 2, 1882.

AFTER I had finished the other business on which I had this morning seen M. Duclerc, his Excellency said he had intended asking me to call, as he wished to draw my attention to an alteration which M. Tissot had noticed lately in your Lordship's language respecting the proposed introduction into Tunis of French Courts of Law, and their jurisdiction over foreigners.

His Excellency said M. Tissot reported yesterday that, in a conversation he had just had with your Lordship, you had expressed yourself with more reserve than on the first occasion. Your Lordship was represented as having declined to give a definite reply, stating that you were in consultation with the other Powers, and were especially waiting to hear what view Italy, who has so many subjects in Tunis, takes of the French proposal.

M. Duclerc said he would not conceal from me that this reply, coming from Her Majesty's Government, to whom he considered he had given so many proofs of his friendship, had been painful.

When England announced to France the suspension of the Capitulations in Cyprus, Mr. Waddington had not consulted the other Powers, he had shown his confidence in Her Majesty's Government by at once accepting the new state of things.

When Austria had introduced her judicial system into Bosnia and Herzegovina, France had again assented to the change without waiting to consult the other Powers.

Why, then, did England hesitate when France wished to take a similar progressive step, why should she wait to consult the other Powers; and especially why should she wish to retrench herself behind Italy?

The relations between England and France were on a very different footing from those between France and Italy, he should be very much disappointed, indeed, if England were not more willing to oblige France than Italy would be.

He did not conceal from himself that he might have to do at first without the consent of Italy; but he proposed not to wait for it when he had once obtained the consent of the other Powers.

Germany, Spain, and several other nations have already given favourable replies surely England was not going to be less friendly.

I said I could not help thinking that M. Tissot must not have reported correctly what your Lordship said if he represented Her Majesty's Government as less friendly in this matter now than they had been. I was not aware of any change in your Lordship's views, but would report to your Lordship what his Excellency had just said.

He must excuse me, however, if I could not see what right he had to look upon a friendly inquiry, as to the views of other Governments made by England, as in any way showing a want of sympathy with France.

The question of the abrogation of the Capitulations in Tunis was a serious one, affecting many interests. In such cases the Powers usually consulted each other; and Italy, as a great Power, would also naturally be one of those whose views Her Majesty's Government would wish to be acquainted with.

His Excellency again said that from England he expected a very different treatment from that which he anticipated from Italy, and I am begged not to let your Lordship see how much he hoped Her Majesty's Government would not wait till Italy had pronounced to give France the proof of friendship which he felt he had a right to expect from them.

M. Duclerc, who at one moment spoke with some warmth, said jokingly, as I was leaving the room, "You know we are, and shall continue to be, your friends, but on condition that you also will do something for us."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 150.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1882, 1.40 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 29 of 30th ultimo.

Subject of the Capitulations brought under consideration of Her Majesty's Government by French Ambassador, but it has not yet been fully considered, and no decision has yet been arrived at.

No. 151.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 19. Ext.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1882.

Sir,

IN your telegram No. 29 of the 30th ultimo, you inform me that great excitement has been caused at Tunis by an announcement made by the Havas Telegraphic Agency that Her Majesty's Government have consented to the abrogation of the Capitulations in the Regency.

I have to state to you that the subject of the Capitulations has been brought under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government by the French Ambassador at this Court, but the question has not yet been fully considered, and no decision has therefore been arrived at with regard to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 152

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1882, 1.45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 80 of 30th ultimo.*

Ask French authorities whether they intend to prosecute prisoner before the Consular Court. If they decline, discharge him, and let him go to Malta, if willing.

No. 153.

Earl Granville to Mr. Reade.

(No. 19. Ext.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1882.

Sir, BY your telegram No. 30 of the 30th ultimo you inform me that the Maltese who had been arrested at the instance of the French authorities, and had, by your direction, been lodged in the Consular prison, had been in custody a fortnight, but that no prosecutor had appeared.

I have to instruct you to inquire whether the French authorities intend to prosecute the accused before the Consular Court. If they should decline to do so you should discharge him and allow him to proceed to Malta, if he be willing to go thither.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 154.

Earl Granville to the Marquis de Casa Langena.

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1882.

IN reply to the verbal inquiry made by M. de Zulueta at this Department on the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform you that the question of the French proposal to abolish the Capitulations in Tunis is under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 155.

Extract from the Instructions sent by Count Kidlinsky to the Imperial and Royal Charge d'Affaires in Paris.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by M. Hengelmüller, October 7.)

(Translation.)

THE French Chargé d'Affaires made a verbal communication in Vienna that his Government intend to replace the present judicial organization in Tunis by French jurisdiction, and that, as the continuance of foreign Consular jurisdiction is incompatible with this intention, they desire to arrive to an agreement with the interested Powers for the abolition of the latter.

In support of this desire the French Government have referred to the same arguments on which we had in its time based the abolition of the Consular jurisdiction in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

There is really no technical reason for maintaining Consular jurisdiction in Tunis when once the administration of justice will be exercised there by the French Government. The Capitulations and the jurisdiction of foreign Consuls resulting therefrom are in Mohammedan countries necessitated by the peculiar institutions based on Islam, which in connection with the unreliability of the local Tribunals, have imposed the obligation on the European Powers to provide for their subjects in those countries the indispensable protection of the law and security for life and property. With the introduction of an organization of justice, under the authority of a Christian Power, and of the corresponding ideas, the basis for the maintenance of Consular jurisdiction falls to the ground.

In the supposition, therefore, that the French Government intend to replace the jurisdiction of the native authorities and of the Consuls throughout by French institutions,

* Not printed.

we shall be ready to take a formal proposition for that purpose into consideration. But we must as yet reserve our decisive answer as this question will have to be examined by the two Governments in Vienna and Brussels. Besides the whole matter of the jurisdiction of Austro-Hungarian Consuls being regulated by special laws, any alteration or limitation of it has to be put into harmony with these.

Belgrave Square, October 6, 1882.

No. 156.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 4, 1882.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 27 and 30 of the respective dates 25th and 30th ultimo, regarding a Maltese who had been arrested at the instance of French authorities for implication in a robbery committed some weeks ago at a French military camp near Gabes, I have the honour to report that, although the Baron d'Estournelles has repeatedly intimated to me an alleged intention on the part of the French Commander-in-chief to demand that the prisoner be delivered into his custody for subsequent trial by court-martial, no such demand has yet been made.

I have reason now to believe that, in consequence of my obtaining no instruction from your Lordship to comply with the French General's request, the idea of making the above demand has been abandoned.

I may add that the Baron has made no secret to me of the object of the demand in question being the creation of a second precedent in support of the proceedings adopted in the Meschino case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 157.

*Earl Granville to Mr. West.**

(No. 37.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 9, 1882, 5.55 P.M.

ASCERTAIN whether French proposal to abolish Capitulations in Tunis has been agreed to by the United States' Government.

No. 158.

Earl Granville to Mr. West.†

(No. 37). Ext. 37.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 9, 1882.

I HAVE to request that you will endeavour to ascertain without loss of time, and report to me, whether the proposal made by the French Government to abolish the Capitulations in Tunis has been agreed to by the Government of the United States.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 159.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 57.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 6, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a despatch I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Leonardi, reporting the indiscreet issue by M. Serret, the French Consul at Sfax, of French passports to Italian subjects of His Highness the Bey.

The continued absence of a regular French Colony in the second town of the Regency,

* Also to Lord Ampthill (No. 314).

† Also to Lord Ampthill (No. 423. Ext. 314).

and a desire to create a fictitious interest at that place, are apparently the motive of the above anomalous procedure.

Taken in connection with the question of the abrogation of the Capitulations, it may have an additional significance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Vice-Consul Leonardi to Mr. Reade.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Sfax, September 18, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that M. Seignette, French Consul at this place, has commenced to furnish the Jews, Tunisian subjects, with French passports, making them pay 20 francs each.

So unusual a procedure on the part of the French Consul has created a feeling of uneasiness among the generality of the population, as the said Jews are for the most part indebted commercially to Europeans; and it is feared that the protection now given to them will make it easy for them to escape paying their debts. It is feared also that, although their property has been taken into account by the Commission for the regulation of the tax of 10,000,000, they will be exempted from paying their share of the contribution, M. Seignette having this day given orders to them not to recognize any other authority than his, whether civil or military.

It is said that even the Commandant of the "Bureau Arabe" is astounded at the above proceedings, as they are not in conformity with the regulations and instructions by which his Department is governed.

If this state of things continues, the French civil authority will have more subjects than the local Government itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GUIS. LEONARDI.

No. 160.

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11)

M. le Comte,

35, Queen's Gate, le 10 Octobre, 1882.

LE Ministère Royal des Affaires Étrangères m'a communiqué les informations contenues dans la note ci-jointe, au sujet d'un acte du Vice-Consul Français à Sfax, qui se réfère à quelques Israélites de cette localité, débiteurs de commerçants Anglais et Italiens.

Comme ce fait, s'il est avéré, serait de nature à porter préjudice au commerce Européen, déjà si gravement éprouvé dans cette localité, je saurais gré à votre Excellence s'il le voulait bien me faire savoir si des informations analogues sont parvenues au Foreign Office, et, dans ce cas, quelle importance le Gouvernement de la Reine attribuerait à cet incident.

En vous remerciant d'avance, je suis, &c.

(Signé) L. F. MENABREA

Inclosure in No. 160.

Memorandum.

PAR ordre de M. Seynott, Vice-Consul de France à Sfax (Tunisie), les propriétés des Israélites de cette résidence ont été estimées et comprises au nombre de celles sur lesquelles doit être régulièrement répartie la taxe de guerre de 10,000,000 fr. imposée à ces populations.

Ce même Vice-Consul a ensuite distribué, moyennant le paiement de 20 fr. chaque, des passeports à plusieurs de ces Israélites en leur enjoignant, dans le cas où ils seraient sommés de comparaître devant le Gouverneur ou le Bureau Arabe, de s'y refuser en déclarant qu'ils sont Français.

Comme tous ces Israélites sont endettés envers les commerçants Européens, il s'en suivrait qu'ils seraient, par ce fait, soustraits à la juridiction locale, qui ordonne le paiement, et, à défaut, l'arrêt; et ils se placeraient, au contraire, sous la protection des lois Françaises, où ils se trouveraient à l'abri des poursuites personnelles, et parviendraient plus facilement à frustrer leurs créanciers.

Londres, le 10 Octobre, 1882.

No. 161

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11, 4.45 P.M.)

(No. 89)

(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, October 11, 1882, 3.50 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 314 of the 9th instant.

Prince Bismarck has agreed to French proposal to abolish Capitulations in Tunis if other Powers consent.

No. 162

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received by telegraph, October 11)

(No. 379. Ext. 89.)

My Lord,

Berlin, October 11, 1882.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 423 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to state that, subject to the consent of other Powers being obtained, Prince Bismarck has agreed to the plan for abolishing the Capitulations in Tunis which has been proposed by the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 163

Memorandum by Sir J. Drummond Hay on the Subject of Mr. White's Despatch No. 25, Consular, of September 18, 1882, regarding Mr. Mackenzie and his settlement at Cape Juby.

AS the Moorish Government have been repeatedly informed that Her Majesty's Government do not admit the Sultan's pretensions over territory to the south of Wad Draa, and that a grave responsibility would rest upon the Moorish Government if an attack was made on British property at Cape Juby, and as the various notes which have been addressed to the Moorish Ministers have had no other result than that of drawing forth a repetition of the grounds upon which the Sultan bases his claims to territories south and east of Wad Draa, I am not of opinion that any object would be gained, under the present circumstances, by addressing a further note upon this subject in reply to that which was addressed by Cid Mohammed Bargash to Mr. White on the 6th September last.*

I have reasons to suppose that the Moorish Government have been prompted both by the Spanish and Italian Representatives to uphold their pretensions to territory south of Wad Draa, and I took an opportunity, on my last visit to the Sultan's Court, to point out that, if His Majesty laid claim to an undefined extent of territory south of Wad Draa, that His Majesty should bear in mind that Spain had lately taken possession of a site at the mouth of the River Oro, and France of another port to the south of the Spanish settlement; and I intimated that, when any advice was offered by the Representatives at Tangier about Mackenzie at Cape Juby, the Moorish Government might make inquiry of them regarding the similar Spanish and French settlements, and upon what grounds these Representatives suggested their opposition to the British settlement.

The Sultan has acted upon the advice given him through me by Her Majesty's Government of opening a port near the southern confines of his territory. Thus he has done at an enormous sacrifice both of life and treasure.†

* No. 144.

† Of an army amounting to 35,000 men and 20,000 animals only 12,000 men returned and 10,000 animals [1269] 2 B

When the port is opened, and the population have recovered from the effects of the late famine in that region, I expect that a large trade will be opened to British commerce, and thus the goods now conveyed from the districts of Wad Noon and Wad Draa, and from Central Africa to Cape Juby, will be diverted into the legal and more regular channel and that Mr Mackenzie may find it hardly worth while to retain his establishment at Cape Juby.

The Sultan's chief reason, I believe, for protesting against the settlement of the British subject at Cape Juby is that French and Spanish subjects may, with equal right, open ports in the district between Wad Draa and Cape Juby, and as no duties on exports or imports would be paid at such settlements, a serious injury might result to the Moorish Customs, and also endless disputes.

The trading-station of Mackenzie at Cape Juby has greatly excited the susceptibility of the Spanish Government and people and prevented thereby their acceptance of the proposals lately made by the Sultan for the abrogation of the Article in the Treaty between Spain and Morocco regarding the cession of Santa Cruz la Palmar on the payment of a large sum. This fact has irritated the Sultan, for he is labouring under the erroneous impression, which is, no doubt, encouraged by foreign Representatives, that Her Majesty's Government have ambitious and covert projects in supporting Mackenzie which will hereafter be carried out to the prejudice of the Sultan's dominions.

I know not whether Mackenzie or the North African Company will ever succeed in opening an important trade with Central Africa, which might lead Her Majesty's Government to give them greater support than they have hitherto done, but I expect that very vexatious questions will hereafter arise on this account.

I do not think the Sultan would be so unwise as to use open force against Mackenzie's settlement, neither do I suppose that any foreign Representative would venture to encourage him to do so, but when the authority of the Moorish Government is more firmly established over the tribes dwelling in districts north of Wad Draa, who are now, I believe, the chief traders with Mackenzie, His Majesty will be perfectly free, and rightfully entitled, I should suppose, to confiscate all merchandise within his dominions in transit to or from Cape Juby.

The Sultan will not, I should think run the risk of giving offence to the British Government by openly encouraging the tribes south of Wad Draa to act offensively towards Mackenzie, but it will be an easy matter for emissaries secretly sent by the Moorish Government to those districts, to bribe Arab or Berber tribes to molest, plunder, and attack the settlers at Cape Juby, so as to destroy all security for life and property.

I know not what remedy to propose, unless it be that the Sultan should offer a sufficient sum to Mackenzie to withdraw from Cape Juby, which at one time he was prepared to do;* but if this was done, it would be expedient, with the view of preventing other adventurers, British or foreign, taking possession of territory to the south of Wadran, which might be prejudicial to the Sultan of Morocco's sovereignty and interests, that the limits of his Empire should be clearly defined, and that the new boundary should be accepted by other foreign Powers.

Though Wad Draa has always been regarded as the southern boundary of Morocco, I do not think there is any Treaty or official document which could be referred to in the archives of the Foreign Office, or of the British Agent at Tangier, which would suffice to prove that the Sultan's dominions have not extended, or do not extend, beyond that latitude.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 164.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett

(No. 1170.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 18, 1882

HER Majesty's Government have given careful consideration to the communication which, as I informed you in my despatch No. 1077 of the 13th ultimo, had been made to me by M. Tissot in regard to the intention of the French Government to establish Tribunals at Tunis, and their wish to come to an agreement with Great Britain and the other Powers having Consular jurisdiction there for the abolition of such jurisdiction, which would, in the opinion of the French Government, become useless when the arrangements now proposed by them come into operation.

* See p. 60 of printed Correspondence, February 1881.

Her Majesty's Government are willing to recognize the justice of the contention, that there would be no sufficient reason for maintaining Consular jurisdiction in Tunis when the native Courts are superseded by French Tribunals. The institutions which have grown up under the Capitulations with Turkey have been found essential for the protection of foreigners under the peculiar circumstances of the Ottoman Empire, and the necessity for them disappears when Tribunals organized and controlled by an European Government take the place of the Mussulman Courts.

Her Majesty's Government would therefore be prepared to give the most friendly consideration to any proposals on the subject which the French Government may have to make to them, but in communicating to M. Ducloux their willingness to consider the question of surrendering their rights so far as Consular jurisdiction is concerned, you will state to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government reserve all the other rights and privileges, commercial and otherwise, guaranteed to them by Treaties, and that they continue to rely upon the assurances given by M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire in his notes to Lord Lyons of the 14th and 16th May, 1881, which, as I stated in my note to M. Challemeil-Lacour of the 20th May, 1881, they regard as an international engagement binding upon the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 165.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.*

(No. 325.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 18, 1882

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister in Paris on the subject of the proposals made by the French Government with a view to the abolition of Consular jurisdiction in Tunis;† and I have to request that you will communicate the substance of the enclosed instruction to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 166

Earl Granville to Mr. Fraser

E
(No. 327.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 18, 1882

THE Italian Ambassador communicated to me this afternoon the substance of a telegram which had been sent by M. Mancini to the Italian Ambassador at Vienna.

It appears that Count Kalnoky had informed the Ambassador that the Austro-Hungarian Government would be disposed to agree to the abolition of the Capitulations in Tunis if France would agree to their abolition in Bosnia.

M. Mancini had thereupon instructed the Ambassador to call Count Kalnoky's attention to the great difference between the position of Bosnia in a judicial point of view and that of Tunis; Bosnia had been entrusted by a European Treaty to the administrative responsibility of Austria, and Italy had been the first to agree to the suspension of the Capitulations there; while in Tunis the only title of France was that derived from the Treaty of the Bardo. This latter Treaty leaves the Government of the Bey and the Mussulman Tribunals intact, and reserves and guarantees the maintenance of all Conventions with foreign Powers.

In the case of Egypt, where only a partial suspension of the Capitulations and for a fixed period was desired, in order to substitute for them the institution of the Mixed Tribunals, the Italian Government had found it necessary to have a law passed by their Parliament for the purpose.

M. Mancini went on to say that the French Government had as yet addressed no proposal to Italy for the abolition or modification of the Capitulations in Tunis, or for the substitution for them of Mixed Tribunals. The Italian Government think it probable that

* Also to Lord Ampthill (No. 436), Sir H. Elliot (No. 379), Sir E. Thornton (No. 302), the Earl of Dufferin (No. 612), Sir E. Malet (No. 359), Mr. Morier (No. 159), Sir C. Wyke (No. 89), Mr. West (No. 280), Mr. Egerton (No. 99), and Mr. Stuart (No. 93).

† No. 164.

France is endeavouring to obtain the consent of other Powers with the intention of addressing Italy last, and exercising pressure upon her in view of the consent of the rest. The Italian Government are, therefore, anxious that the question should not be prejudged, but should be carefully discussed among the several Powers, and M. Mancini expresses a hope that the Austro-Hungarian Government will ascertain whether other Governments have any objection to offer to the proposal, and what system of international jurisdiction the French Government contemplate creating at Tunis.

General Menabrea said he was instructed to make representations to me in the same sense.

I told his Excellency that we could not affect to doubt that a country like France, and holding the position she held in Tunis, had the means of introducing judicial institutions there which would ensure substantial justice to foreigners. We had from the commencement made our recognition of the position acquired by France dependent upon the maintenance of all commercial rights and privileges secured to us by Convention with the Regency, and our consent to any modification of the Capitulations would be made subject to that reservation. But with that proviso I thought it was in the interest of British subjects and of commercial progress and civilization to agree to the introduction of any well-devised judicial system to replace the present imperfect arrangements.

The Italian Ambassador expressed his fear that the magistrates appointed would not be impartial in adjudicating between the claims of French and foreign parties, who had conflicting commercial interests.

I told him that without admitting this assumption, if there were any risks or disadvantages attendant on the establishment of French Tribunals which remained uncovered by our reservation of our commercial privileges, and if the Italian Government had any plan for remedying this state of things, I should be ready to consider their proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 167.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20)

(No. 1107.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 19, 1882.

I CALLED upon M. Duclerc this afternoon to communicate to his Excellency the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 1170 of the 16th instant.

I stated that Her Majesty's Government were willing to recognize the justice of the contention that there would be no sufficient reason for maintaining Consular jurisdiction in Tunis when the Native Courts are superseded by French Tribunals. The institutions which have grown up under the Capitulations with Turkey have been found essential for the protection of foreigners under the peculiar circumstances of the Ottoman Empire, and the necessity for them disappears when Tribunals organized and controlled by an European Government take the place of the Mussulman Courts.

I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to give the most friendly consideration to any proposals on the subject which the French Government may have to make to them.

I begged, however, his Excellency to take note that the question which Her Majesty's Government were willing to consider concerned Consular jurisdiction only.

Her Majesty's Government reserve all the other rights and privileges, commercial and otherwise, guaranteed to them by Treaties, and they continue to rely upon the assurances given by M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire in the notes to Lord Lyons of the 14th and 16th May, 1881, and I reminded his Excellency that, in your note to M. Chalkemell-Lacour of the 20th May, 1881, your Lordship had stated that Her Majesty's Government regard these assurances as an international engagement binding on the French Government.

M. Duclerc, who took down the dates of the notes alluded to, said that he quite appreciated the distinction drawn by Her Majesty's Government, the consent to give friendly consideration to the proposals to be made by France respecting the Tribunals entirely met all he had so far asked Her Majesty's Government to agree to.

The commercial and other privileges might, perhaps, hereafter form the subject of future negotiations; his proposal at present touched only the question of jurisdiction.

M. Duclerc begged me to express to your Lordship his very sincere thanks for the friendly manner in which his overtures had been met by Her Majesty's Government.

If we can continue to discuss our many little difficulties in the same friendly spirit, said his Excellency, we shall soon have settled them all.

I said I entirely agreed with his Excellency, and I counted on seeing France, on her side, show the same friendly disposition as we had shown to arrange in an amicable spirit the various matters in discussion between the two Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 168.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 502. Confidential.)

Vienna, October 19, 1882.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH Count Kálnoky has not pronounced himself respecting the proposal to abrogate the Capitulations in Tunis, he is evidently of opinion that it would be advisable to consent to it.

He will not, however, be the first to express his readiness, and will wait to learn the views of other Governments, while, in the meantime, the question is being examined in all its bearings.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires tells me that when he spoke to Count Kálnoky on the subject, his Excellency observed that there might be some difficulty for him in refusing to admit the abrogation of the Capitulations in Tunis as it had already been carried out in Bosnia, but M. Gavagna did not recognize the analogy between the two cases, as Austria occupied Bosnia by virtue of a European Treaty, while the French occupation of Tunis has no such sanction.

No one, who has had occasion for observing the working of the Capitulations, and especially of Consular jurisdiction, can, I should imagine, desire their maintenance wherever the establishment of a responsible Government renders their abrogation possible and I understand the Austrian Consul-General in Tunis to have expressed a strong opinion in favour of the benefit that would result from it in the Regency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

No. 169.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 391.)

Berlin, October 20, 1882.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction of the 18th instant, I communicated to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's despatch to Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, No. 1171 of the 16th instant, on the subject of the proposal made by the French Government with a view to the abolition of the Consular jurisdiction in Tunis, and his Excellency, in thanking your Lordship for this communication, observed that the proposal did not appear to have met with any opposition on the part of the Powers appealed to by France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPHILL.

No. 170.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 1117.)

Paris, October 23, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the denial just published by the "Agence Havas" of the accuracy of the report in the "Times" this morning respecting secret Treaty arrangements concluded in July last between the French Government and the Bey of Tunis.

I had occasion to see M. Duclerc this afternoon, but he did not allude to the subject,
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and, in view of the return of Her Majesty's Ambassador to-night, I considered it better that I should not make any inquiries about it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Extract from the "Agence Havas" of October 23, 1882.

UN journal Français et un journal Anglais ont entretenu le public d'un Traité qui aurait été conclu, il y a déjà plusieurs mois, entre le Gouvernement Français et le Bey de Tunis.

À quelque source que ces informations aient été puisées, les détails que ces journaux donnent manquent d'exactitude.

Lorsque les arrangements nécessités par le développement de notre situation à Tunis auront été définitivement arrêtés le Parlement en sera saisi. Jusque-là, le public fera sagement de se tenir en garde contre des indiscrétions toujours regrettables, et qui, le plus souvent, reposent sur des informations inexactes ou incomplètes.

No. 171.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 58.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 18, 1882.

THE health of the Bey of Tunis having, for some days past, been a subject of much anxiety here, I venture to bring the fact to the knowledge of your Lordship.

His Highness is suffering from a severe attack of dysentery, and being at the same time afflicted with an old and chronic disorder of a grave and supposed incurable character, fears are seriously entertained as to the issue of his present illness. These apprehensions are further enhanced by a consideration of Sid Saïd's age—70 years—and the physical troubles that have befallen him during the past two years.

Such an event as the Bey's death may, in the actual conjunction of affairs, prove a source of some embarrassment to the French Government, if, as I am credibly informed, its annexation of the Regency is not, for the present at least, contemplated. The succession would, in such a case, devolve on Sid Ali Bey, who, it may be remembered, was sent last year with the Bey's forces to the Kroumir Province, and has never since been viewed with confidence by the French. The administrative capacity of this Prince is probably inferior to that of his reigning brother, but as, in the altered state of things here, the exercise of the Beylical authority is little more than nominal, any falling off on this head is of little or no importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 172

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 19, 1882.

IN my despatch No. 56 of the 4th instant I ventured to record an opinion that the intention of the French Commander-in-chief to demand that the Maltese, who had been arrested on the charge of being implicated in a robbery committed at a military camp near Gabes, should be delivered into his custody for trial by court-martial, had been, or would be, abandoned. A perusal of the inclosed letter I have since received from the French Chargé d'Affaires will show that that opinion has been verified.

Acting upon your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant, I have discharged the prisoner, and, to avoid the possibility of his falling into the hands of the French military authorities, facilitated his departure from the country, by placing him on board a steam-vessel proceeding to Malta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 172

Baron d'Estournelles to Mr. Reade.

(Personnelle et Particulière.)

Cher Mr. Reade,

Tunis, le 16 Octobre, 1882.

VOUS m'avez fait présenter officiellement que si nous n'étions pas disposés à laisser juger par votre Tribunal Civil le Maltais qui est pour nous par la just et mal faire pour complicité de vol par recel au préjudice d'un trésorier-payeur de l'armée, vous prendriez le parti de mettre cet individu en liberté.

Bien qu'elle ne soit pas celle que je vous proposais, je dois avouer pourtant que cette solution est de beaucoup la meilleure: elle nous évite les embarras qu'aurait pu amener la demande officielle que j'avais pensé d'abord à vous faire de nous livrer le prisonnier et, d'autre part, l'autorité militaire à laquelle mon Gouvernement ne peut songer à refuser le droit de se défendre contre les malfaiteurs, le poursuivra, une fois libre, conformément à ses lois.

Agréez, &c.
(Signed) D'ESTOURNELLES.

No. 173.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 28. Commercial. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 18, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21, Commercial, of the 23rd August last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that in a conversation which I had recently with Cid Mohammed Bargaah, on the subject of the new ports which the Sultan proposes to open to trade in the Province of Soos, he informed me that, in consequence of the very unfavourable report the Sultan had received concerning Assaka, he (Cid Mohammed Bargaah) did not think that port would be opened.

His Excellency informed me that Cid Mohammed Gebous, who has passed through a course of instruction at Chatham, and who, by the Sultan's order, had visited Assaka since His Majesty's return from Soos, has reported that that port affords little or no shelter to vessels, and that only on a very few days in each year would it be possible for vessels to load or discharge cargo there.

Cid Mohammed Bargaah requested that this information be considered as confidential, as he had no instructions to communicate it to any one.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that by the latest accounts I have received from him, Mr. Payton was still at Mogador waiting for an occasion to visit Assaka.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

No. 174

Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 1204.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 25, 1882.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform Mr. Plunkett that his language to M. Duckers, as reported in his despatch No. 1107 of the 19th instant, respecting the Tunis Capitulations, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 175

Mr. Stuart to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 125.)

My Lord,

The Hague, October 25, 1882.

HAVING communicated to M. Rochussen, as instructed in your Lordship's despatch No. 93 of the 18th instant, a copy of the despatch No 1170 which you had addressed on

the 10th instant to Her Majesty's Minister in Paris, on the subject of the proposals made by the French Government with a view to the abolition of Consular jurisdiction in Tunis, I have received a note from his Excellency, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, requesting me to convey his thanks to Her Majesty's Government for that communication, and mentioning that he had taken cognizance of it with the greatest interest.

I propose to take an early opportunity of inquiring verbally of his Excellency whether the Netherlands Government entertain the same views as Her Majesty's Government with respect to the above matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART

Inclosure in No. 175.

M. Richardson to Mr. Stuart.

M. le Ministre, La Haye, le 24 Octobre, 1882.
 J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir votre office du 21 de ce mois, par lequel vous avez
 bien voulu me faire parvenir une copie d'une dépêche adressée par Lord Granville à la
 Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique à Paris, concernant l'abolition éventuelle de la juridiction
 Consulaire en Tunisie.

Je me permets, M. le Ministre, de recourir à votre bienveillante intermédiaire à l'effet de transmettre à votre Gouvernement mes remerciements pour cette communication, dont j'ai pris connaissance avec le plus vif intérêt, et je saisis, &c.

(Surné) ROCHUSSEN.

No. 176.

E Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)
(No. 515.)

My Lord, Pesth, October 26, 1889.

COUNT KÁLNOKY says that he entirely concurs in the views conveyed in your Lordship's despatch No. 1170 to Mr. Plunkett, of which I had communicated to him the substance, respecting the abrogation of the Consular jurisdiction in Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 177.

(No. 1227.)
My Lord.

I HAVE to call your Excellency's attention to the fact that Her Majesty's Government have not yet received a reply from the French Government to the representations which Mr Plunkett was instructed, by my despatch No. 1110 of the 25th ultimo,* to make to them on the subject of the Sfax claims, and which expressed the hope of Her Majesty's Government that British claimants may not be deprived of any portion of the sums awarded to them by the International Commission.

I have to request that your Excellency will call the attention of M. Duclerc to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 178

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received October 31.)
(No. 386.)

My Lord, Rome, October 24, 1882.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch
No. 325 of the 18th instant, inclosing a copy of your Lordship's despatch No 1170 of the

* Not pooled.

17th instant to Her Majesty's Minister in Paris, on the subject of the proposals made by the French Government with a view to the abolition of Consular jurisdiction in Tunis, and to acquaint your Lordship that, in compliance with your instructions, I have communicated the substance of this despatch to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the form of a Memorandum, which I yesterday handed to Chevalier Tosi, at present in charge of the Foreign Department, in the absence of M. Mancini, the Secretary-General, and the Director of the Political Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 179.

Mr. Baring to Earl Granville.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 91)

My Lord,

Lisbon, October 25, 1882.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 59 of the 18th instant, I have this day addressed a note to the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, communicating to him the substance of the instructions conveyed to Mr. Plunkett by your Lordship's despatch No. 1170 of the 16th instant respecting the proposals of the French Government for the abolition of Consular jurisdiction in Tunis.

I have, &c,
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 150.

Consul Dupuis to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

Teperiffe, October 16, 1882

MR. HENRY LEE, M.P. for Southampton, one of the Directors of the English trading community established some three or four years since at Cape Jub, on the West African coast, nearly opposite these islands, and known under the name of the North Western African Company (Limited), favoured me on the 12th of this month with a visit, accompanied by Mr. Donald Mackenzie, the resident local Manager of that establishment, and presented me with your Lordship's letter of introduction.

Mr. Lee, who has recently returned from Cape Juby, after giving me a brief description of that place, and the doings of the Company, expressed himself as highly pleased with the state of things he found there, as well as with the commercial development in so short a time; and that, judging from the present hopeful aspect of affairs, he was very sanguine as to its future prospects, and trusted one day to be able to obtain for it a Royal Charter of recognition from the British Government and to issue shares to the public.

So far the Company can only be said to exist in its Infancy, as its community only numbers some dozen Englishmen and as many other Europeans, principally Spaniards from these islands. The object of this Society is, as far as I can understand, purely of a commercial character, namely, to endeavour to divert a portion of that traffic, which now is its way from the interior of Africa to its northern coast (Barbary), to Cape Juby for shipment to Europe.

The Carava, at present, trades principally in wool, which it receives in exchange for wheat and barley, and, in this manner, has, I am informed, realized some fair profits. The trade in intoxicating liquors, arms, and gunpowder is not encouraged, while the first is prohibited altogether.

Buildings have been erected for the accommodation of settlers, as well as a good, substantial fort, flying an English flag and mounting a couple of guns, for self-defence should it ever be called upon to do so, although at present, I am informed, not the remotest probability exists for such apprehensions, especially since your Lordship's warning to the Moorsish Government that it would be held responsible for any troubles it might cause. It is a prejudice, through its instrumentality, directly or indirectly. Among other improvements which are being carried out, it is intended to erect a suitable dwelling for the Scheik or Chief of Arab tribe, and a caravansary, or meeting-place, for the accommodation of Arab travellers, merchants, and others, with their goods and cattle coming from the interior of the country to transact business.

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ALL WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE
SECRETARY, FILE, LONDON

It would appear from what I learn that the Company experienced some opposition, difficulties, and annoyances on its first establishing itself, not only from the Moorish Government, but also from the Spanish authorities of these islands, and their Consul at Mogador, who complained against the importation at Cape Juby of Spanish labourers from the Island of Lanzarote, but these obstacles have now ceased to exist, and Mr. Mackenzie seems free to import men and materials, and also to build lighters for the use of the Company in the Island of Lanzarote.

I believe Mr. Lee informed me, that apart from buildings, &c., the Company owned property at the Cape to the value of upwards of 8,000*l*.

In conclusion, I should add that, considering the shortness of my residence here, I cannot pretend to much knowledge respecting that establishment [being beyond this jurisdiction], and I only repeat to your Lordship the information as given by those interested in the enterprise. Without offering an opinion one way or another, I will only venture to say that, considering the progress achieved in so short a time, there is no reason why it should not eventually prove a commercial success, if only carefully and prudently conducted on the spot and encouraged at home.

Presuming that the object of the visit was to influence me as regards recognizing, protecting, and assisting the Company, I should feel greatly relieved if your Lordship will kindly instruct me as to the course I should pursue under such circumstances, for although the Company's premises are beyond this jurisdiction, still it is the nearest British authority at hand to appeal to.

In offering to your Lordship this imperfect Report I beg I may be permitted to state that, if at any time it should be desired, I would be ready to visit Cape Juby, with the view of furnishing a more correct Report respecting the establishment there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 181.

Consul-General Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord,

Tripoli, October 25, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report that Ali Ben Khalifa, the Chief of the Tunisian murgents, with his followers, together with other Chiefs and the tribes, to the number of about 35,000 people, who had taken refuge in this province, have given in their submission to the French authorities in Tunis, and have within the last few days recrossed the frontier.

It is said that about 10,000 or 15,000 had already returned to Tunisian territory during the last few months, leaving in this province about 10,000 of the *Zliss* and other tribes, who are more seriously implicated in the *rassias* committed on the Bey's property, and who, therefore, fear to return.

It is difficult to obtain even an approximate estimate of the total number of Tunisians who had taken refuge in this province. The Turkish authorities assert them to have been as many as 200,000; whilst my French colleague assures me they have never exceeded 60,000. I believe the latter estimate to be the more correct one.

The success of our arms in Egypt has contributed in no small degree to discourage amongst the Tunisian refugees the hope of assistance in retaking their country from the French, persistently held out to them by the secret Agents of the Palace, and to induce them to submit to the French authorities.

M. Feraud, the French Consul-General, left yesterday in a gun-boat for Gabes, to be present at the formal surrender of the Chiefs at the camp there.

The Europeans who had fled from Tripoli during the panic in July and August last have now all returned, the collapse of the rebellion in Egypt having effectually put an end to all show of fanaticism on the part of the Mussulman population here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 182.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6, 10 P.M.)

(No. 446. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, November 6, 1882, 6.45 P.M.

THE Prime Minister begs to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the Sultan sending a Firman to the successor to the late Bey of Tunis, and His Highness is anxious, if possible, for their support. The French Government are, it appears, discountenancing this formality.

No. 183.

Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 615.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 7, 1882, 6.40 P.M.

I SHOULD be glad to receive your Excellency's observations on the following telegram received from Mr. Wyndham:—

"The Prime Minister begs to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the Sultan sending a Firman to the successor to the late Bey of Tunis, and his Highness is anxious, if possible, for their support. The French Government are, it appears, discountenancing this formality."

No. 184.

Earl Granville to Viscount Lyons.

(No. 1261. Ext. 615.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 7, 1882

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will favour me with your observations on the accompanying telegram from Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Constantinople, conveying the wish of the Turkish Prime Minister to learn the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the Sultan sending a Firman to the successor of the late Bey of Tunis.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 185.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 177.)

My Lord,

Athens, November 2, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 93 of the 18th ultimo, and to state that I have communicated to M. Tricoupi the substance of your instruction to Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in Paris respecting the abolition of Consular jurisdiction in Tunis.

His Excellency, taking note of the reservation respecting other rights and privileges guaranteed by Treaties, and that he would follow a similar course to that adopted by Her Majesty's Government as regards the surrender of Consular jurisdiction in Tunis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 186.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 62. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 3, 1882.

THE project of an alleged secret Treaty between France and Tunis having, for some days past, engaged the attention of the public press, it may not be uninteresting to your

No. 182.

Lordship to know the views which one of the supposed principal actors in the negotiation has openly expressed on the subject.

To my Italian colleague and others M. Cambon, in terms which it is impossible to misunderstand, has disavowed the existence of any such project, and referred to the reports in circulation as devoid of all foundation.

On the other hand, I must beg to remark that I was, some weeks ago, confidentially informed by a Moorish friend at the Court, that a secret negotiation of the kind under consideration had been entered on, or concluded, between the French Government and the Bey, and that, notwithstanding every effort on my part to ascertain how far the report might be relied on, I failed to elicit anything in confirmation of it. The position which France at the time occupied, with 40,000 troops in the country, and the entire administration of the Government in her hands, and the power consequently to do here pretty well as she likes, led me to believe that such a negotiation was neither called for nor necessary.

If, from the above or other circumstances, it should be inferred that a transaction of the nature referred to in the newspapers has in reality taken place, I can only say that the secrecy with which it has been so long surrounded is remarkable—at a Court where, owing to the habits and character of the numerous officials in constant attendance, it is so difficult to guard against a divulgence of facts that are not intended to go beyond the official circle.

Certain of the details published in connection with the alleged negotiation are manifestly untrue; such, for instance, as the statement that the Bey took the initiative in the matter, and that the original project, drawn up in Arabic, left Tunis without being first translated into French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 187.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8, 11.10 A.M.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.)

Paris, November 8, 1882, 10 A.M.

YOUR telegram No. 615 of last evening.

I conceive that the French would resist to the utmost any attempt of the Sultan to send a Firman to Tunis, and that very few things would be taken so ill by them as our giving him any encouragement to do so.

No. 188.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received by telegraph, November 8.)

(No. 1165. Ext. 218.)

Paris, November 8, 1882

My Lord,

BY a telegram dated last evening (No. 615), your Lordship has desired me to submit to you observations upon telegraphic intelligence which you have received from Mr. Wyndham, to the effect that the Turkish Prime Minister inquires the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the Sultan's sending a Firman to the successor of the Bey of Tunis, and is anxious to obtain the support of Her Majesty's Government for such a step.

I have no hesitation in saying that the French Government would view with very great displeasure the issue of such a Firman by the Sultan, and that they would resist to the utmost the reception or publication of any such Firman in Tunis.

I am equally certain that any encouragement in the matter given to the Sultan by Her Majesty's Government would be taken extremely ill both by the French Government and by public opinion in France.

I have this morning had the honour to send your Lordship by telegraph the substance of the present despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 189.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 652. Ext. 625.)

Foreign Office, November 8, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 446 of the 6th instant, reporting the desire of the Porte to be more acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the dispatch of a Firman to the successor of the late Bey of Tunis. This is, however, a matter in which Her Majesty's Government are unable to interfere.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 190.

Earl Granville to Baron Solovys.

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, November 8, 1882.

YOU recently inquired on behalf of your Government what decision Her Majesty's Government had come to with regard to the proposal made by the French Government for the abolition of the Capitulations in Tunis, and I have now the honour to acquaint you that Mr. Plunkett, Her Majesty's Minister at Paris, has been instructed to the following effect:—

Her Majesty's Government are willing to recognize the justice of the contention, that there would be no sufficient reason for maintaining Consular jurisdiction in Tunis when the native Courts are superseded by French Tribunals. They are therefore prepared to give the most friendly consideration to any proposal on the subject which the French Government may have to make to them, but in communicating to M. Duclerc their willingness to consider the question of surrendering their rights so far as Consular jurisdiction is concerned, Mr. Plunkett has been instructed to state to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government reserve all the other rights and privileges, commercial and otherwise, guaranteed to them by Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 191.

Mr. West to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 379. Confidential.)

Washington, October 25, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 363 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Secretary of State, in the course of conversation to-day, alluded to the communication I had made to him respecting the French proposal to abrogate the Capitulations with Tunis. He said that he conceived that the Powers interested in the maintenance of the Consular jurisdiction which had hitherto been considered necessary for the protection of the persons and property of their respective subjects in Eastern countries ought not, and, indeed, could not, altogether abandon it; and he seemed to think, although he did not say so, that the abrogation of the Capitulations in the case of Tunis might furnish a dangerous precedent for the adoption of a similar course, under similar circumstances, in other Eastern countries.

He added that, upon all such questions, he hoped that the United States' Government and that of Her Majesty would be found agreed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Consul Dupuis to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Teneriffe, October 29, 1882.

AT the request of Mr. Vice-Consul Topham, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, inclosed herewith, a Report on the North West African Company's station at Cape Juby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure in No. 192

Vice-Consul Topham to Earl Granville.

My Lord,

Lanzarote, October 21, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that we have recently had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Henry Lee, M.P., Chairman of the North West African Company, who came to this island with the object of visiting the station of the Company at Cape Juby, on the opposite coast of Africa.

Supposing it might be interesting to your Lordship to know some particulars regarding the said establishment, I beg to report as follows:—

In the year 1876, Mr. Donald Mackenzie (one of the Directors of the aforesaid Company) came to this island for the purpose of exploring the coast. I accompanied him in his last trip to Cape Juby (before his return to England), and found the natives most amicably disposed towards him, expressing a desire that he would return again with merchandize, offering to make known to the tribes of the interior of his arrival, that they might come down to trade. From that time to 1880 (when the aforesaid Company was formed) he made several voyages from England to this island, and from thence to Cape Juby, trading with the natives, who at all times received him in the most friendly manner.

Eventually a station was established at Cape Juby, and many tribes came from several parts of the interior, as well as those from the coast, to trade. Buildings were commenced by the Company for carrying on business; a large one was erected on a reef that runs out some distance from the beach, and another on shore, both now completed. To carry out these operations the Company employed about sixty men from this island—masons, carpenters, labourers, and seamen. All this has been carried out without the least fear or apprehension of being molested by the natives, and as a proof of this a considerable number of men of this island are most eager to be employed. I may also mention that in consequence of the failure of crops, the tribes in the interior, as well as those of the coast, would have suffered most seriously for want of food had not this want been remedied by the Company's ordering cargoes of grain and meal to the cape, which has wonderfully increased the good feeling of the natives towards those who occupy the station, looking on them as benefactors.

Within a certain period a circumstance has come to my knowledge (which bears out most forcibly all I have stated to your Lordship with regard to the station and which leads me to believe it is destined to become a place of importance, especially as regards British trade and commerce) that the Chiefs of several tribes caused to be proclaimed to their people express injunctions that they were to respect the Christians there located; to refrain from offending or molesting them; and, if need be, to prevent others from so doing.

The foregoing information and nearly all that I have related having come under my personal observation and knowledge, and by studying British interests, I have considered it a duty incumbent on me to report to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN T. TOPHAM.

Memorandum by Sir E. Hertalet on the Southern Boundary of Morocco.

IN June last* Messrs. McNaught and Co. asked what were the boundaries of Morocco as understood by Her Majesty's Government, the inquiry having reference specially to the Province of Sus, and to a small place on the coast called Ifni, and they were told, in reply,† that "the boundary of Morocco, as understood by Her Majesty's Government, extended along the coast of the Atlantic as far south as Wady Draa, about a day's journey south of Wad Noon;" and that "the Province of Sus was, therefore, within the boundary" (See accompanying chart).

This statement was based upon the following official information, which had been received at this Office from Morocco.

On the 16th August, 1879, Mr. White, who was then acting for Sir J. D. Hay at Tangier, addressed a despatch to Lord Salisbury,‡ in which he said:—

"I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a letter addressed to me by Cid Mohammed Bargash relative to Mr. Mackenzie's proceedings at Cape Juby.

"Your Lordship will observe that in this letter the Moorish Minister, writing by order of the Sultan, lays claim to the country south of Wad Draa, inhabited by Mussulman tribes, not subject to another Sovereign.

"In a conversation with Cid Mohammed, who called on me after forwarding his letter, I observed that the Sultan's claim, as he raised it to the Emperor forwarded by the Sultan to territories south of Wad Draa, which has not hitherto been considered to form part of His Majesty's dominions, and which is not asserted to his rule, and I inquired what, in the opinion of the Moorish Government, are the southern boundaries of the Empire, and whether it extended as far as Senegal.

"Cid Mohammed replied that all that part of the Sahara that is inhabited by a Mussulman population is not under the rule of another Prince, belongs, in accordance with 'Shraa,' or law, to the Sultan of Morocco, and he added that, at the commencement of last century, the Sultan Mula Ismail was, by force of arms, caused his authority to be respected in the Sahara.

"He also laid great stress on the fact stated in his letter, that the tribes, even when rebelling against his rule, recognize the right of sovereignty vested in Mula Hassan by naming him in their public prayers.

"I said that I thought that the mention of the Sultans of Morocco in their prayers by these Mussulman tribes was a recognition of their spiritual rather than their temporal headship and authority, but Cid Mohammed did not acquiesce in this opinion."

Lord Salisbury approved the language which Mr. White had held to the Moorish Minister, adding:—

"Her Majesty's Government cannot admit the pretensions of the Sultan of Morocco to sovereignty over regions south of Wad Draa, only on the ground that the populations name him in their prayers."

On the 11th January, 1880,§ Sir J. D. Hay (who had then returned to his post) addressed a further despatch to Lord Salisbury, in which he said:—

"With reference to the instructions conveyed to Mr. White in your Lordship's despatch No. 3,5, of the 6th October last regarding Mr. Mackenzie's proceedings at Cape Juby, Cid Mohammed Bargash requested me, at the beginning of last month, to address him a note embodying the reply of Her Majesty's Government, which had been communicated to him verbally, during my absence, by Mr. White, as he desired to transmit it to the Sultan.

"He informed me that His Majesty attached the greatest importance to this question, and that it had been proposed to dispatch a special Envoy to London to urge the British Government to take steps to compel Mr. Mackenzie to withdraw from Cape Juby.

"Cid Mohammed Bargash said that it was to be apprehended that the example of Mr. Mackenzie would be followed by other adventurers—French and Spanish; that conflicts might arise with the natives, and involve the Sultan in serious difficulties with those Governments. He said that the trade of Mogador would be seriously affected by

* June 26, 1881.

† July 21, 1881.

‡ No. 2, Slave Trade, August 16, 1879. Printed with Papers respecting Mr. Mackenzie's Expedition to Cape Juby.

§ No. 3, Commercial, January 11, 1880.

the proceedings of Mackenzie, as much of the produce of the southern districts and of Senegal would deviate from its usual channel and pass to Cape Juby, to the prejudice of their Customs revenue. Cid Mohammed Bargash said that complaints had been made by inhabitants of the southern districts on this subject, and that it would be necessary for the Sultan to take decisive steps to remedy the evil.

"I replied that I did not think that a Moorish Envoy could bring forward satisfactory arguments, based on international law, to induce Her Majesty's Government to alter its decision of not interfering with the right of a British subject to land on territory, for the purposes of trade (with the free will and consent of the inhabitants), which could not be rightfully claimed by the Sultan or other Sovereign with whom Great Britain was in alliance; that *Wad Draa* had from ancient times been considered the extreme southern limit of the dominions of the Sultan, and that the pretension put forward, that wherever the name of the Sultan of Morocco was mentioned in prayer the inhabitants of that district were to be considered as His Majesty's subjects, could never be entertained.

"I pointed out the absurdity of such a pretension, as I said the name of the Sultan of Turkey was frequently mentioned in prayer by Mahomedans throughout Asia and Africa, who were not and never could be considered Turkish subjects."

The following is a copy of the letter which Sir J. D. Hay addressed to Cid Mohammed Bargash; and of his reply:—

"Sir J. Drummond Hay to Cid Mohammed Bargash

"(Translation.)

"(After compliments.)

"December 8, 1879.

"During my absence in England you addressed a note to Mr. White, who was in charge of the Legation, informing him that the Sultan had requested that Her Britannic Majesty's Government should take steps to compel Mr. Donald Mackenzie to depart from Cape Juby, where he had landed for the purposes of trade.

"You state that Cape Juby is situated within the territories of the Sultan of Morocco.

"One of the reasons you give for making this assertion is that you consider that wherever the Mahomedan population make use of the name of the Sultan in prayer, they are to be regarded as subjects of His Sherrefian Majesty.

"Mr. White communicated your letter to the British Government.

"They replied that the River *Wad Draa*, which is about a day's journey south of *Wad Noon*, has from ancient times been regarded as the extreme southern boundary of Morocco, and they cannot admit the pretension that Cape Juby forms part of the Sultan's territory on the ground that His Majesty's name is alleged to be mentioned by the inhabitants in their prayers.

"If such a pretension was admitted, the Sultan would become responsible for the aggressions of the Mahomedan tribes near the French possessions of Senegal, who are constantly in collusion with the French, and also for the acts of the powerful Mahomedan Chiefs in Soudan as far south as the Niger, a journey of two months from *Wad Noon*, in Central Africa.

"The British Government has given many proofs of its desire to uphold the integrity of the Sultan's dominions, even in districts such as the Reef and Soos, when his power of control has of late years been null or very feeble, but it would not be a friendly act to acquiesce in a pretension which would impose responsibilities of the gravest character upon the Sultan, and probably involve His Majesty at some future time in serious questions with other Governments, neither could the British Government rightfully compel a British subject to withdraw from a territory situated beyond the Sultan's dominions when the inhabitants have voluntarily consented to his landing and remaining there.

(Signed) "J. H. DRUMMOND HAY."

Cid Mohammed Bargash's reply:—

"Cid Mohammed Bargash to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

"(Translation.)

"(After compliments.)

"23rd Moharrem, 1297 (January 7, 1880).

"We have received your letter dated the 8th December informing us that your powerful Government had stated that *Wad Draa* is the boundary of Morocco as known from ancient times, and that they cannot take steps to compel a British subject to withdraw from a territory which is not within Sherrefian dominions, and, moreover, that Mackenzie landed in that district with the consent of the inhabitants, who, you say, received him in a friendly manner.

"We have to make known to you, esteemed friend, that our Lord the Sultan has given us strict orders to make a further representation to you on this subject, for inhabitants of that district have complained to the Sherrefian Court of the injury that may arise to them from that (the landing of Mackenzie).

"This affair is one of serious importance, and our Lord the Sultan has proposed to send an Envoy to your Government to confer with them upon this affair, and to explain the prejudice which will be caused to these dominions. We are persuaded that you must know also the evil consequences which may ensue from this affair, and that you are always desirous to remove whatsoever is prejudicial to these realms.

"Should your powerful Government not agree to accept the remonstrances which have been made, it will only remain for this Government to inform the people who have complained that they are free to repel from that country those who cause injury to them, and that no responsibility will rest upon them for doing so, especially after the protests that have been made."

In a subsequent despatch Sir J. D. Hay said:—

"In a French map I find that *Masa*, which Sheikh Mohammed Ben Bairook declares to be within his territory, is situated about 20 miles south of Agadeer, and 120 miles north of the River Draa.

"This river has always been regarded as the southern boundary of Morocco."

A copy of a French map (no doubt the one referred to by Sir J. D. Hay) is sent herewith, with the positions of *Sus*, *Masa*, *Ifni*, and *Wady Draa* marked thereon.

Mr. J. Curtis, a resident at Mogador for the last seventeen years, now writes to say that he has seen, with surprise, this reply to Messrs. McNaught, and asks how the statement contained therein is consistent with the fact that the Claims Commission which sat at Tangier from 1876 to 1879, refused to entertain or examine any claims made upon the *Sus* people, under the plea that the proofs were drawn by those residing in districts over which the Sultan held no jurisdiction, or with the statement that he had been asked by the Sultan of Morocco to the Spanish Government in 1879, that, as *Sus* was not under the jurisdiction of the Sultan, he could not grant to Spain a port on the coast of a country which did not belong to him.

With regard to the first question, we have no information in this Office, so far as I am aware, which would enable us to answer it; and with regard to the second, it will be seen from the printed extracts given above (p. 108), that in the very year quoted by Mr. Curtis (1879), Sir J. D. Hay reminded the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs that "the British Government had given many proofs of its desire to uphold the integrity of the Sultan's Dominions, even in districts such as the Reef and Soos, when the power of control had of late years been null or very feeble."

As Mr. Curtis alludes to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty between Spain and Morocco of the 26th April, 1860, it may be mentioned that no sooner was that Treaty signed than doubts were raised as to the real meaning of many of its stipulations, one of them having reference to the position of *Santa Cruz de Pequeña*, near which place the Sultan of Morocco engaged to cede to Spain, ground for the formation thereon of a fishery establishment.

The doubt raised was whether the *Santa Cruz* referred to, was *Santa Cruz de Pequeña*, near the River Noon, or *Santa Cruz*, otherwise called *Agadeer*; but, in any case, it was admitted to be the north of *Wad Draa*.

How the matter was ultimately settled (if it has been settled), Sir J. D. Hay would no doubt be able to say; but I think it is clear that, in 1879, we recognized the Province of Soos as forming part of the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco, although His Highness had evidently very little power of control over its inhabitants; and I think it is also clear that the answer given to the inquiry made by Messrs. McNaught, in June last, was the correct one.

(Signed) K. HERTSLET.

Foreign Office, November 12, 1881

* No. 12, January 30, 1880.

† Carte de l'Empire de Maroc, &c.: par le Capitaine d'Etat-Major Beaudouin. Paris. 1848. Map 364.

‡ Decree of 1881.

[1269]

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14)

(No. 63.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 6, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of the 3rd instant, on the subject of an all-god project of Treaty secretly drawn up between the Governments of France and Tunis, I have obtained confidential information which places the existence of that document beyond all doubt.

The main objects to be attained by the Treaty are, as lately intimated in some of the leading newspapers, the abolition of Consular jurisdiction and repeal of the compact under which England and Italy have a voice in the control of the financial administration of this country.

The project bears, it appears, the signature of the late Bey, but has not been confirmed by the reigning Prince.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 195.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14)

(No. 64.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 6, 1882.

THE accession of Sidi Ali Bey to the Government of this Regency has led to the following changes in the Ministry of the Interior:

1. The late Minister, Sidi Ali Bey, has been appointed Tunisian General, and Sidi Ali Bey, the late Bey's son, is appointed Prime Minister, and M. C. de la Roche, French Minister, is appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs.

2. The Ministries of War and Marine are suppressed, all matters pertaining to them being placed under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief of the French forces.

3. General Lambert, Governor of the city of Tunis, is charged also with the duties of the Tunisian general.

The above changes are very generally regarded here as preliminary to the annexation of the country, and it is to be expected that there will be no further assurances on the part of the French Government that there is no intention to add Tunis to the French Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 196.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15)

(No. 65.)

My Lord,

Tunis, November 9, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 62 of the 3rd instant, on the subject of the appointment of M. Cambon as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bey of Tunis, I have the honor to present to your Lordship the inclosed translation of a Circular letter which the Bey has addressed, informing the various foreign Representatives of that country.

It will be perceived that the title of the present Bey is simply "Bey," and that the Turkish rank of "Mushir," which has hitherto been held by the Beys of Tunis, is dropped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 196.

The Bey of Tunis to Mr. Reade.

(Translation.)

From the Servant of God, &c., Aly Basha Bey, Possessor of the Tunisian Kingdom, to the respected, &c., Thomas F. Read, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul-General.

WE beg to inform you that, in accordance with a Resolution taken by my predecessor, dated the 11th of Pagan, 1208, we have selected M. Cambon, Minister Resident of the French Republic in Tunis, to be our Minister for Foreign Affairs.
21 Hoggia, 1299 (November 4, 1882).

No. 197.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15, 4:50 P.M.)

(No. 449.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, November 15, 1882, 11:30 A.M.

I AM informed that the French Government has declined to allow the Porte to send a Firman of Investiture for the new Bey of Tunis.

No. 198.

Earl Granville to M. Cambon.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires.

Foreign Office, November 15, 1882.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of General Menabren's note of the 10th inst. in relation to the issue of passports at Tunis in issuing passports to certain subjects of the Bey.

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that, from a report which has been received from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Tunis, it appears that the French authorities have issued passports to some of the subjects of the Bey, and have taken them under their protection.

Her Majesty's Government has, however, had no complaints from any British subjects of any inconvenience or prejudice being caused to them by this measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 199.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 403.)

My Lord,

Rome, November 11, 1882.

I CALLED on M. Mancini to-day, and found him still confined to his bed, though somewhat better.

In the course of our conversation I asked his Excellency whether he had yet sent a note to the French Government respecting the proposed abolition of the Consular jurisdiction.

M. Mancini read to me a part of a letter which he had addressed, with the signature of the Consul-General, to the French Minister, who was in charge of the French Legation at Tunis, in which he expressed his regret that he was to return to M. Mancini, and to leave the charge d'Affaires, upon the above subject.

It was to the following effect:—
1. The French Government might be assured that the Italian Government would consider, in the most friendly and conciliatory spirit, any proposal made by the Government of France upon the matter in question, relying on the French Government acting towards them in the same spirit.

2. That, of course, he (M. Mancini) could not take upon himself the responsibility of saying, before consulting the Council of Ministers, what the official position of the Government might be. That the Council of Ministers might possibly be anxious for

information as to the precise nature of the Tribunals which were to replace the Consular Courts, and, consequently, M. Mancini would be obliged to M. de Bacourt if he could procure for him this information.

3. That in the event of the Italian Government accepting the French proposal respecting the abolition of the Consular Courts, it was to be understood, of course, that they would reserve all their commercial and other rights as guaranteed by existing Treaties.

His Excellency added that since the above communication had been made to M. de Bacourt he had heard nothing more from the French Government in reference to the subject to which it related.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 200.

Mr. Stuart to Earl Granville.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 138.)

My Lord,

The Hague, November 16, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 125 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I have twice inquired of M. Rochussen whether the Netherlands Government entertained the same views as those of Her Majesty's Government respecting the wish of the French Government to bring about the abolition of Consular jurisdiction in Tunis.

His Excellency told me yesterday that he would be prepared to give us freely a consideration as possible to any direct proposal of the French Government to the above effect, provided it did not include a renunciation of the other rights and privileges secured to the Netherlands by Treaties; but that so far no direct written proposal of the kind had been received from the French Government, and the French Minister had not lately made any allusion to the matter.

It appears, therefore, that the Netherlands Government will probably be inclined to accede to any such proposal, if its terms should turn out to be sufficiently satisfactory, with much the same reservations as those made in your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Plunkett No. 1170 of the 16th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 201.

Consul-General Playfair to Earl Granville.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

Algiers, November 13, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report that an expeditionary column, consisting of two battalions of infantry, a squadron of cavalry, and a section of artillery, under the command of General Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, has left El Aghouat for the purpose of annexing the oases of the Beni-Mzab.

It will in the first instance proceed to Ghardiah, where it is proposed to construct a fort and leave a small garrison of 100 infantry and 25 spahis.

The country of the Mzab has never been formally annexed to France; it is situated between El-Aghouat and Ouargla. Its inhabitants are very industrious and enterprising traders, and ethnologically one of the most interesting people in North Africa. Their religious sect is very closely allied to that of the Ibadhi, to which the Imam of Muscat and the Sultan of Zanzibar belong.

It is not anticipated that there will be any resistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 202.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 29. Commercial.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 18, 1882.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatches, Commercial, No. 21 of the 23rd August, and No. 28 of the 18th October, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Cid Mohammed Bargash has addressed an identical letter to the Government, in which he states, by order of the Sultan, that as the ninety days, for which the ports of Agadir and Assaka were opened, have expired, and as Assaka has been reported as ill-suited for the purposes of a commercial port, it will henceforth be closed. Agadir, however, will remain open for the importation of provisions under the former conditions for a further period to expire at the end of Raba II, 1300, that is, on or about the 12th March, 1883.

I understand from Cid Mohammed Bargash that the Sultan proposes to send a commission of Moorish officers to examine the coast in order to find a more suitable site than Assaka, at which a port could be opened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 203.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 1043.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 14, 1882.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 625 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have acquainted the Prime Minister with the decision of Her Majesty's Government not to interfere in the question of the Imperial Firman for the successor to the late Bey of Tunis.

On hearing this communication, his Highness declared that if he had been encouraged to have recourse to the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, it was on account of the desire always manifested by Great Britain in particular to sustain the rights of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(For Mr. Wyndham)
(Signed) F. M. SARTORIS

No. 204.

Sir R. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 153.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 17, 1882.

SEVERAL papers having, in the reports given by them of what took place at the Council of Ministers on Thursday, stated that, amongst other things, the Council had finally decided on sending the corvette "Ligera" to take possession of Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña, I asked the Under-Secretary of State, whom I chanced to meet last night, what truth there was in this report. Señor Mendez de Viga replied that it was in the notice given by the press was wholly incorrect. The negotiations respecting the exchange of territory for some other were not terminated, and there could not, therefore, be a question of taking possession of that which was the subject of negotiation. The "Ligera" was, nevertheless, being sent on the Canary station, where there were actually no ships of war, to be at hand if wanted. For there was this difference in the situation now, as compared with what it had been, that, for all these past years, the Sultan of Morocco had pleaded his want of authority in those parts as a reason for not executing the Treaty of Cession. But last summer he had made a triumphant tour through these provinces of his Empire, where his authority had every been recognized. Consequently the *rex major* pleaded before could no longer be admitted as a reason for not fulfilling his Treaty obligations.

I am not aware of the state of the negotiations respecting the exchange of territories proposed by the Moorish Government, but I cannot doubt that the sending of the "Ligera"

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I am, &c
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Consul-General Playfair to Earl Granville.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

Algiers, November 21, 1882.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 13 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that the Governor-General, in his opening discourse at the "Conseil Supérieur" on Monday the 20th, thus alludes to the occupation of the Beni-Mzab territory:—

"I cannot conclude this statement without informing you of the annexation of Mzab, which has now actually taken place. By the Treaty of 1853 the Mzabites engaged to maintain order and security in their territory, and to abstain from all connivance with our enemies. Notwithstanding these stipulations, and in spite of repeated remonstrances, the Mzab has never ceased to be the scene of sanguinary struggles, the centre of revictualment for the insurgents in the south of Oran and their entrepôt for warlike stores. The Government has therefore found it necessary to occupy this region definitively. But while we take into our hands the direct administration of the country, we shall leave to its inhabitants the enjoyment of their customs and their municipal freedom, and I am willing to believe that before long they themselves will appreciate the benefits of a regular and equitable government and of permanent pacification."

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

No. 209.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 142.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 20, 1882.

CID MOHAMED BARGASH informs me that the rebel Algerine Chiefs, Cid Solymian, Bou Amama, and Haniza of Ouled Cidi Sheikh, have been committing aggressions on the tribes near Taflet, who are subjects of the Sultan, and that His Majesty's uncle, who is Governor of that town, has written to the Sheressian Court that he has no power to control these Chiefs, even if they should take possession of Taflet.

I expect to hear of further aggressions on the part of these Chiefs upon tribes who are loyal to the Sultan, and that razzias will be committed also by them on the French territory.

M. Orlega informed me in the course of a conversation that the Sultan and his Government are acting with good faith, but that His Majesty appears to have no power of control over the districts within his dominions where these Chiefs have established themselves, and that this state of affairs may give rise hereafter to serious complications.

This country is in a deplorable state. Five years of drought have reduced the population to the greatest distress, and the Governors and Sheikhs, who, being unpaid, have no resources, wrench from the farmers their cattle and seed. The trade of the country has greatly diminished; the revenue in like proportion. The Treasury is empty, and the troops, not being paid, are deserting the Sheressian service. The season when rain usually falls is far advanced, and, with the exception of two days, none has fallen this autumn. Cattle and other animals are perishing in numbers. If rain falls the country may recover; if not, there will be a famine, and probably revolution. The Sultan is said to be distributing a pittance of food to the starving inhabitants of Morocco and others who have fled to that city.

I have written to the Vizier to inquire when the Commissioner who the Sultan had agreed to send for negotiating the revised Convention of Commerce will be directed to proceed to Tangier, but I expect that the reply may be that the country is in such a distressed state, that it will be useless to treat about the improvement of trade, &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 143. Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 20, 1882.

YOUR Lordship is aware that I am on very friendly and intimate terms with the Spanish Minister, M. Diosdado, and he speaks to me without reserve upon questions affecting this country.

In conversing with him about the late tidings received from Taflet, he said it was to be apprehended that complications may sooner or later arise, and that the French Government would have plausible grounds, or find good excuse, to march upon Fez.

He informed me, very confidentially, that in a Cabinet Council, at which the King was present, such an eventuality and the course to be pursued was discussed, and it was decided that should a French force take possession of any city or town of Morocco, all the troops which Spain could dispose of would be transported to Ceuta, and that the northern coast bordering the Straits and adjoining territory would be occupied by their forces, who would be directed to aid the Sultan, or whoever might at such a moment govern this country, in repelling the French invasion.

M. Diosdado said that Spain could not cope either with the military or naval forces of France, but that the possession by that Power of the northern provinces of Morocco involved the very existence and independence of Spain.

I avoided making any reply to this observation further than to say that I hoped the French Government would hold to the promises it had made to respect the independence and integrity of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 211.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 1223.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 29, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship an article which has appeared in the unofficial publication, the "Agence Havas," and which purports to give the substance of a statement respecting Tunis made yesterday by M. Duclerc to a Committee of the Senate.

He states that M. Duclerc confirmed incidentally the existence of a new Treaty with Tunis, of which the object is to abolish the Capitulations and buy up the Tunisian debt, but adds that his Excellency said that the submission of the Treaty to the Chambers depended upon the conclusion of negotiations in progress with foreign Powers respecting the abolition of the Capitulations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 211

Extract from the "Agence Havas" of November 29, 1882.

LE Ministre des Affaires Étrangères s'est rendu hier à la Commission du Sénat chargée d'examiner le projet de Loi sur l'organisation militaire et judiciaire de la Tunisie déjà voté par l'Assemblée. Incidemment, M. Duclerc a confirmé l'existence du nouveau Traité passé avec le Bey de Tunis dans le but d'abroger les Capitulations et de racheter la dette Tunisienne. Toutefois, le projet de ce Traité sur le bureau des Chambres est subordonné à l'achèvement des négociations qui se poursuivent encore avec les Puissances étrangères en ce qui concerne l'abrogation des Capitulations et la substitution des Tribunaux Français à la juridiction actuelle des Consuls et de leurs nationaux.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1229)

My Lord,

Paris, December 1, 1882.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 280 of the 14th March last, and to my despatch No. 232 of the 16th of the same month, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note from the French Government stating that two sums, one of 2,300 fr., and one of 400 fr., will be paid to M. Musud in compensation for the losses sustained by him in consequence of the occupation by French troops of his farm in the neighbourhood of Tunis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 212

M. Duclerc to Viscount Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 28 Novembre, 1882.

VOTRE Excellence avait bien voulu appeler l'attention de mon prédécesseur, le 16 Mars dernier, sur la requête du Sieur Musud, sujet Anglais, demandant une indemnité en raison des dommages causés par nos troupes d'occupation de Tunisie à une ferme lui appartenant.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que, conformément au procès-verbal des pertes subies par votre national, le Ministre de la Guerre va et de donner l'ordre de lui remettre une somme de 2,300 fr. Une somme de 400 fr. sera également versée entre ses mains, à titre de dommages-intérêts pour la non-exécution de certaines réparations qui n'ont pu être faites dans sa ferme en temps utile.

Agréer, &c.
(Signed) E. DUCLERC.

Sir R. Morier to Earl Granville.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 158.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 28, 1882.

HAVING received yesterday morning, under flying seal, Sir John Drummond Hay's despatches Nos. 144 and 145, I thought it might be useful to read to the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo the latter of these two despatches together with my despatch No. 154 of the 20th instant, in which I reported to your Lordship the statements made to me by his Excellency with reference to the destination of the "Laguna."

His Excellency who observed that I had very exactly reported what he had said, was gratified at my showing him the despatches, as the collation of such wholly independent documents showed the perfect accord in which the two Governments had acted, and that, notwithstanding the persistent statements of the press to the contrary, the Spanish Government felt persuaded that the Spanish Government would not attempt to take possession of the alleged territory otherwise than in the ordinary and correct manner, by a formal act, in which Commissioners from the Sultan would necessarily participate.

I told his Excellency that I would, if he approved of my doing so, send a copy of my despatch No. 154 to your Lordship, by Sir John Drummond Hay, which would enable him to supply the Marquis de Armijo with an authentic refutation of the rumours respecting the present destination of the "Laguna."

I was also glad of the opportunity of relating, in the most direct manner, the persistent statements in the Madrid press respecting the cession by the Moroccan Government to British mercantile Companies, of ports and establishments on the west coast of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

P.S.—In reading Sir John Drummond Hay's No. 145 to the Minister of State I omitted the sentence "and that a clear understanding would have to be come to before the cession was formally made, that the site was to be occupied as a 'fishery,' and not for the purpose of trade."

R. B. D. M.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 362 A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 4, 1882.

THE Italian Ambassador, in the course of his conversation with me this afternoon, spoke of the contemplated abolition of the Capitulations in Tunis.

He remarked that there were two points to be considered in regard to this question.

It might be admitted that the present Consular Courts could be replaced by new Tribunals, such as the French Government would institute. There remained, however, the question of the private rights accruing to individual foreigners under the Capitulations, such as inheritance of legacies, tenure of property, &c. By what law were such cases to be decided in future? By the native law, by French law, or by the law of the nation to which the individuals belonged?

With regard to the Tribunals themselves, it would be the interest of France to agree that they should be to a certain degree of mixed nationality, and that cases between French citizens and other foreigners, when heard before a Tribunal composed of French and Italian judges, should be an opportunity for diplomatic representation in the event of any appearance of unfairness in the decisions given.

I asked his Excellency whether the Italian Government had made any proposals to the French Government on these points.

He said that they had not done so. The French Government had only held vague language to them on the whole subject. The Italian Government, he added, would be glad to know our views and to act with us.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 362 B.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 4, 1882.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, having returned to this country for the purpose of presenting his letters of recall.

His Excellency commenced by saying that he was charged to assure me of the cordial feelings entertained by the King and the Government of Italy towards this country.

General Menabrea then spoke at some length on Tunisian affairs.

He said that the matter of the indemnity for losses of Italian subjects at Sfax had been nearly settled. There still remained, however, the question of the compensation to be awarded for the movable property. Losses of jewels and portable effects were in this respect somewhat different from destruction of bulky articles of furniture and the like, which could not be transported.

General Menabrea said that the Italian Government wished to come to an agreement, but that they could not yield everything.

I have related the other points of his Excellency's communication in separate despatches.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Earl Granville to Sir R. Morier.

(No. 17.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 5, 1882.

I HAVE to express to you my approval of the language which you held to the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo, respecting the destination of the "Laguna" and the relations between Spain and Morocco, as reported in your despatch No. 154 of the 20th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville — (Received December 7.)

(No. 147.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 30, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 44 of the 21st instant, transmitting, for my information, a copy of a Memorandum from Mr. Mackenzie respecting the visit of the Moorish deputation to Cape Juby.

In the 9th paragraph of that Memorandum the following statement is made:—

"Some years ago I made known to the English Government my intention of visiting this part of the African coast. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs reported this to the Sultan, asking His Majesty that, if his dominions reached as far south as Cape Juby, to extend to me his protection and good-will. The Sultan replied, through Sir John Hay, that he would have much pleasure to comply with the request of the British Government, but that he did not claim any territory south of Wad Noon, and that the portion of the country I was about to visit was outside his country."

I know not who could have stated to Mr. Mackenzie that the Sultan had informed me that "he did not claim any territory south of Wad Noon, and that the portion of the country I (Mackenzie) was about to visit was outside his country," for the Sultan and his Ministers have never ceased, since the arrival of Mr. Mackenzie at Cape Juby, to protest against his establishing himself at that site, as they declared it forms part of His Majesty's dominions. I can place, therefore, very little faith in the general account given by Mr. Mackenzie of his interview with the deputation, since he has chosen to make a statement which is utterly devoid of foundation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY

Memorandum by Sir E. Herbert.

I DO not think it is quite correct to say that the Finance Commission agreed to a rise to 8 per cent. in the Tunisian import duties, in order to pay off the loan on the understanding that a reduction should be made in those duties to 3 per cent. as soon as the loan was paid off.

The facts would appear to be these:—

In 1869 the Tunisian Government proposed to increase their import duties to 10 per cent. The Italian Consul-General in Tunis at first refused to sanction this increase, but the Italian Government afterwards gave its consent to it, provided it was only to last for one year; that the question should then be revived, and that the proceeds should be devoted to the purpose for which it was said they were required, namely, "the fulfilment of the public engagements." (Sir A. Paget, No. 11, Commercial, 26th February, 1869.)

The British Government consented to the increase on the same conditions. (To Mr. Wood, No. 4, 8th March, 1869.)

Mr. Wood, however, reported on the 2nd April, 1869, that the French Government refused to sanction the proposed increase in the import duties.

But on the 2nd April, 1870, Mr. Wood reported that, in consequence of two Circulars which the Bey had addressed to the foreign Representatives regarding the increase of the import duties from 3 to 8 per cent., and the reduction of the export duty by 54 per cent. on a great variety of articles of native produce, the French, Italian, Austrian, American, Swedish, and Spanish Agents had met at his invitation at Her Majesty's Agency to discuss the proposals of His Highness preparatory to submitting them to the consideration of their respective Governments. Mr. Wood said in this despatch—"These fiscal measures have been suggested by the Finance Commission on the ground: (1) That the 3 per cent. on foreign imports, fixed 250 years ago, was too low a rate of duty to be continued any longer with any degree of justice towards this regency, and (2) that high export duties operated to the prejudice to the export trade, prevented the development of the resources of the country, and only served as an encouragement for, and a premium to, contraband." He then stated that for those reasons, and, in view of an urgent necessity which existed to improve the financial condition of the country, the foreign Representatives had unanimously agreed to strongly recommend to their Governments the acceptance and sanction of the Bey's requisition.

No. 218*.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.(No. 362 a.)
Sir,*Foreign Office, December 7, 1882.*

IN conversation with me on the 4th instant the Italian Ambassador alluded to the question of the abolition of the Financial Commission in Tunis.

His Excellency called my attention to the Treaties which secured to Italy and to England, by their most-favoured-nation clause, that the duties on imports into the Regency should not be higher than 3 per cent. *ad valorem*.^a

His Excellency remarked that the Commission had agreed to a rise in these duties to 8 per cent. to pay off the loan, but with the understanding that the Tariff should fall to 3 per cent. as soon as the loan was paid off. But if the Commission was abolished, and France took upon itself the debt, there would be no security for any reduction, and it appeared to his Excellency that this was a matter which called for the serious consideration of the two Governments.

I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Memorandum upon this question, drawn up by Sir E. Hertslet.[†]

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

^a Treaty between France and Tunis, November 15 (1 May 21), 1824; *State Papers*, vol. xiv, p. 712.
Ditto, August 8, 1830; *State Papers*, vol. xix, p. 1030.
Treaty between Great Britain and Tunis, July 19, 1875, Article VII.
Treaty between Italy and Tunis, September 5, 1863, Article IX; *State Papers*, vol. xix, p. 1290.
[†] No. 218.

Mr. Wood then observed that the guarantees which were required when the Bey raised the import duties temporarily to 10 per cent., namely, that the funds realized by the duties should be properly applied, had been given by the transfer of the Customs to the Board of Management, appointed by the Commission to receive them; and he concluded by saying that, as the proposed measure was of a permanent character, he begged to submit it to Lord Clarendon's favourable appreciation. (Mr. Wood, No. 16, 2nd April, 1870.)

Acting on the advice of the Board of Trade, Mr. Wood was informed that Her Majesty's Government approved the changes contemplated in the Bey's Circulars. (No. 7, Consular, 7th May, 1870.)

The increase in the import duties accordingly commenced on the 1st June, 1872, and on the 19th July, 1875, a General Convention was concluded between this country and Tunis, by Article VII of which it was agreed that the duties to be levied upon British produce and manufactures should, in no case, exceed one fixed rate of 8 per cent. *ad valorem*; and that no other or higher duties should be imposed on such produce and manufacture which should not equally extend to the like articles being the produce or manufacture of any other country.

By Article XIII it was also agreed that agricultural implements and machinery, as well as cattle and animals when imported for purposes of trade (but not otherwise), should be subject to the payment of an import duty not exceeding 8 per cent. But nothing was said about the import duty of 8 per cent. being eventually reduced to 3 per cent., although power was reserved to either party to demand a revision of the Convention after seven years.

It is true that it was stipulated in our Treaty with Tunis of 1751, that British subjects should not pay a higher duty on their goods than 3 per cent., and that they should always pay 2 per cent. less than the French; but this Treaty, with other old Treaties, was expressly declared to be replaced by the Convention of the 19th July, 1875.

(Signed) E. HERTSLET.

Foreign Office, December 7, 1882.

P.S.—By the Treaty between France and Tunis of 1824, it was agreed that "French merchants should only pay 3 per cent. customs, according to customary usage, until the establishment of a new Tariff," which Treaty was confirmed by the Treaty of 1830; but France was one of the Powers which consented in 1870 to the Bey increasing the import duties in Tunis from 3 to 8 per cent.

E. H.

No. 219.

Consul Dupuis to Earl Granville.—(Received December 12.)(No. 20.)
My Lord,*Teneriffe, November 21, 1882.*

I BEG leave to acquaint your Lordship with the arrival here of the Spanish war-vessel the "Ligera" to be stationed in these waters, at the disposal of the Captain-General, having on board some 350 men of the marine infantry.

Although these troops have been landed at this port, their ulterior destination is believed to be elsewhere, and rumour has it that they are to be dispatched to Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña.

Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña appears, as far as I can learn, to be an old, long-abandoned fort on the West Coast of Africa, to the north of Cape Juby, nearly opposite these islands. According to historical records, the place was a Spanish possession for some time after the commencement of the fifteenth century, when the Spaniards were expelled by the Moors. It was again ceded to Spain after the Treaty of Peace between that country and Morocco in 1860, but it has continued ever since little better than abandoned, and its whereabouts scarcely known even to the Spaniards themselves.

It is now said that the Spanish Government intends to take formal possession of that fort, and to place a garrison there, with the view to make of it a trading centre with the interior of Africa, and a fishing station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 150.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 12, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the translation of a letter addressed to me by the Vizier Mukhtar, complaining that the British Consul at Mogador had affixed a notice in his office in which Wad Drea is mentioned as the southern boundary of Morocco, and he then proceeds to bring forward arguments to prove that certain sites he names, as also territory occupied by a portion of the tribe of Tekna, form part of the Sultan's dominions.

The Vizier, in pursuance of orders received from the Sultan, inquires whether I think Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to receive an Agent, who might be dispatched to London to endeavour to come to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government regarding the establishment of "Mackenzie at Tarfaya,"* and he requests me to counsel the Moorish Government how to proceed, so as to enable them to obtain a satisfactory solution of this question, to which His Majesty attaches much importance.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of my reply, in which I inform the Vizier that the Consul at Mogador had issued the notice to British subjects,† by my direction, with the view of warning them against landing or engaging in trade in districts to the south of Mogador, as no claim put forward on account of loss of property would be entertained.

I then point out to the Vizier that it was unnecessary to bring forward arguments to prove that the sites mentioned in his letter are within the Sultan's dominions, for no question has ever been raised by Her Majesty's Government or by myself to the contrary; but, with regard to the Arab tribe of Tekna, who, he states, dwell in the district of Cape Juby, that, on a reference to the maps I possess, I find that this tribe is noted as dwelling on territory to the north of Wad Drea, but that, if the Moorish Government have proofs that they dwell also in the district adjoining Tarfaya, I shall be ready to transmit them for the consideration of your Lordship.

With regard to the Sultan sending an Agent to London to treat upon this question, with the object of endeavouring to obtain a solution, I inform the Vizier that I shall make known the proposition to your Lordship, but that, under existing circumstances, I do not feel authorized to express any further opinion upon the subject than that I have put forward in my reply to the Vizier.

Since the Government at Madrid has lately made known to the Sultan that they require the execution of the Article in the Treaty of 1860 between Spain and Morocco ceding Santa Cruz la Pequeña, and have declined to entertain the propositions made by His Sherifian Majesty for the abrogation of this Article on the payment of an indemnity (and I may add, in parenthesis, that the failure of this negotiation is attributed, with some reason, to the outcry raised in Spanish journals on account of the English factory at Cape Juby‡), and as the Sultan is actually engaged in seeking for a fitting site on the coast to establish a trading port, where properly constituted authorities, both Moorish and European, would reside, I am not surprised at their persistence in declaring that the settlement of the North African Company at Cape Juby is a violation of Moorish territory.

I foresaw from the first, when Mackenzie took possession of that site, that vexatious questions would arise as the establishment of a free port on the confines of Morocco must affect injuriously the customs revenues of the Sultan, and, sooner or later, if the enterprise proved successful, lead to the subjects of other Powers establishing themselves also on that coast for the purposes of trade, and consequently to troublesome complications.

The maps that have been published of the districts of Morocco south of Agadir are not, I believe, very correct, either in giving the names of places or of tribes, and if, as the Vizier asserts, a portion of the nomad tribe of Tekna extend their camps as far as Cape Juby, the Sultan is justified in claiming, according to the Law of Morocco, the territory where that tribe resides.

In the Memorandum of the 11th October last, which I was directed to prepare upon this subject, it will be observed that I point out, if the Sultan opens a port on the southern confines of his dominions, and gives orders to the Moorish tribes to stop the

* Cape Juby.

† For copy of despatch to Mr. Payton, see Inclosure in No. 11, Slave Trade, of November 29, 1881.—J. H. D. H.

‡ See despatches No. 14, Commercial, of May 28, 1880; No. 10, Slave Trade, of November 2; No. 11 of November 28, 1881; and No. 149 of December 9, 1882.

passage of merchandize to and from Cape Juby, as he would be perfectly justified in doing, the trade at Cape Juby from the north would be checked or even destroyed.

The Sultan had put forward a proposition at one time to offer compensation to Mackenzie for the outlay which had been incurred in the buildings, &c., at Cape Juby, if he would withdraw, and I should think, if it is not too late, that such a solution of the question might, perhaps, be best for all parties, and that the site at Cape Juby should be handed over to the Sultan's authorities, and should Mackenzie or other members of the North African Company desire to remain there, they might, perhaps, be permitted to do so, under the condition of continuing their business subject to the Tariff dues which would be levied according to existing Treaties by the Sultan's customs officers, who would be ordered to proceed thither.

The North African Company may probably object to such a solution of this question, but they will have to bear in mind that, should the Sultan consolidate his sway in the vicinity of Wad Drea, and authorize the stoppage and confiscation of merchandize in his dominions on its way to Cape Juby, the small trade which may at present be carried on will be cut off, even though the Sultan may avoid, in consequence of the warnings he has received, taking any aggressive step of a direct character against the establishment at Cape Juby.

In conclusion, I wish to add that, should the question regarding the sovereignty of the Sultan over Cape Juby be settled by the withdrawal of the North African Company, it would be necessary that a formal understanding be come to regarding the southern boundary of Morocco, which would have to be clearly defined, acknowledged, and accepted, not only by Great Britain, but also by all other foreign Powers, or Mackenzie might at some future time be replaced by another adventurer, British or foreign, and the same vexatious question would again arise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

The Vizier Ben el Arby Mukhtar to Sir J. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

(After the usual compliments.)

9 Muharrum, 1300 (November 21, 1882).

It has come to the Sherifian knowledge of our Lord the Sultan, that the British Consul at Mogador has caused a notice to be affixed in his office that the boundary of the Moorish dominions is Wad Drea, and that, should any British subject lose property in districts north of that limit, he will have no right to put forward a claim upon the Government of Morocco.

This is an act of presumption, for even if it emanated from the British Government, it should come through a more regular channel, and at the hand of the person entrusted with such weighty affairs. Moreover, the question is a grave one between the two Governments.

The coast from Asaka to Alhaida to Tarfaya (Cape Juby) is within the district of Tekna, and, as you must be aware, Tekna is, all of it, within the Morocco territory, and their Chief, Sheikh Wuld Abd Allah Aswan, submitted to the Government of the father and grandfather of our Lord the Sultan, and also renewed his allegiance with our Lord the Sultan, for the ancestors (of the Sheikh) have been submissive to His Majesty's ancestors, and in consequence of their submission, His Majesty's grandfather granted them a house at Mogador.

As soon as our Lord the Sultan arrived in Soos, the Chiefs (of Tekna) presented themselves to His Sherifian Majesty, and our Lord received them, and appointed authorities to govern them, and they presented themselves at the last feast, and made their offerings, as is usual on such occasions.

If the Chiefs (of these districts) did not consider themselves as belonging to these dominions, why should they have requested that Governors should be appointed by the Sultan? and why should your Agent (Mr. White*) seek that the property of the merchants settled at Tarfaya should be protected? and why should the Spanish Representative require that the Moorish Government should deliver up the site in that territory which they allege belonged to them in former times? and how comes it to pass that they (Mackenzie) should have gone there without authority? neither did they ask permission.

To conclude, we request you, as a friendly counsellor, to consider well this matter,

* See Mr. White's No. 24, Consular, of September 7, 1882, and Inclosure.

which is of great importance to us, for it cannot be concealed from a judicious person like yourself the prejudices which it occasions. Point out to us what step we should take. Shall we send some one as a messenger (agent) from our Lord the Sultan to your powerful Government through your medium? and that you give him letters of recommendation, and point out how he is to act and how he is to treat upon this affair with your Government, and whatever you consider would be right and advantageous to effect a settlement in a satisfactory manner.

We look to you as a friend in the conduct of this business, for our Lord the Sultan has confidence in your counsels, as he knows that you seek to promote his welfare, and that you will give your especial attention to the consideration of this matter, and His Majesty depends upon you.

Inlosure 2 in No. 220.

Sir J. Drummond Hay to the Visier.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

December 9, 1882.

I HAVE received your letter of 9 Muhurram, informing me that it has come to the knowledge of the Sultan that the British Consul at Mogador had affixed a notice in the Consulate that the boundary of the Moorish dominions is Wad' Draa, and that, should British subjects sustain loss of property in districts north of that limit, they will have no right to put forward a claim upon the Moorish Government. You state that you consider that the Consul should not have presumed to issue this notice, as you say it is a question solely for the consideration of the two Governments.

You point out that the coast from Assaka to Tarfaya is within the district of Tekna, and that all Tekna is within the Morocco territory, for you state that the Sheikhs of Tekna have, since the time of the grandfather of Mulai Hassan, been submissive to the Sherifian rule, and that, on the arrival of His Majesty Mulai Hassan in Soos, they presented themselves, and requested His Majesty to appoint authorities to govern them.

This, you say, is a proof that they are submissive to the Sultan, and you ask, if the merchants settled at Tarfaya were not within the dominions of the Sultan, why should my Agent* seek protection for their property from the Moorish Government; and you add, as a further proof, that the Spanish Government have demanded that a site in that district, alleged to have belonged to them in former times, should be delivered up.

In concluding your letter, you request me to give His Sherifian Majesty friendly counsel, with the view of effecting a settlement of this question; and you inquire whether an Agent should be dispatched by His Majesty to Her Majesty's Government to treat upon this affair, which His Sherifian Majesty recommends to my especial attention.

In reply, I have to inform you, with reference to the notice issued by the Consul at Mogador to British subjects, that it was done by my direction, and with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, and that, far from being an act of presumption on the part of the Consul, or of being adverse to the Moorish Government, it was done with the view to warning British subjects against committing infractions of the law within the acknowledged dominions of His Sherifian Majesty.

Special directions on this subject were given to the Consul in consequence of my having noticed an advertisement in various newspapers, that a Company had been formed to trade with the Soos people. I transmit, for your information, a translation of my instruction to the Consul, from which you will learn that I thought it advisable to warn British subjects that, if they landed on territory to the north of Wad Draa, which has hitherto been regarded by the British Government as the south boundary of Morocco, no claim on account of losses of property which might be sustained would be admitted.

The arguments you bring forward to prove that certain districts of Soos, such as Assaka, Tekna, and the site of Santa Cruz la Pequeña, claimed by the Spanish Government, are within the dominions of the Sultan, are unavailing, for these places are situated to the north of Wad Draa, as marked in the maps I possess, and no question to the contrary has ever been raised by Her Majesty's Government or by myself; but Tarfaya, where Mackenzie is stationed, is about one and a-half day's journey south of Wad Draa; and, according to maps the tribe of Tekna, which you declare has been and is submissive to the Sultan of Morocco, do not extend, as far as I can learn, to the district near Tarfaya; but if you possess proofs to the contrary, I shall be glad to submit them to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

* Mr. White in my absence.—J. H. D. H.

With respect to the query you put, how it comes to pass, if we do not acknowledge that site to belong to Morocco, that the Naib (Chargé d'Affaires) had, in my absence, requested that the protection of the Sultan should be extended to the property of British subjects at Tarfaya, you will find, on perusing with attention that letter, that the Naib did not ask for protection, but that he merely warned the Moorish Government, as directed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State, that the British property existing at Cape Juby must be respected, as serious consequences would result should any attack be made upon it in consequence of any step that may be taken by the Sultan to assert his authority in that district.

It is not a matter of surprise to me that the Sultan should consider it to be injurious to his customs revenue that an establishment has been opened to trade in the contiguity of the boundaries of his territory, where goods are imported and exported free of duty; but it must be borne in mind that, until within the last six months, when the Sultan marched a large force to Soos and Wadnoon, the tribes south of Agadir had not been submissive to or acknowledged the Sherifian authority.

To this fact must be attributed the frequent attempts, during a long series of years, made by European merchants, at the invitation of the tribes on the southern coast, to establish factories to enable the latter to obtain the manufactures of Europe, and to have an outlet for their produce without having to proceed to the distant port of Mogador.

Mackenzie established himself at Tarfaya (Cape Juby), as invited by the inhabitants of that district, who declared at that time that they owed no allegiance to the Sultan.

Though Her Majesty's Government could not, according to law and the rights possessed by British subjects, order Mackenzie to quit territory which was not acknowledged to belong to any Sovereign or Chief with whom Great Britain has Treaty obligations, neither could they allow that any foreign Power should molest such an establishment of a British subject; yet you must admit that good proof has been given to His Sherifian Majesty of their disinterested friendship and desire to uphold his interests, from the fact that I was directed to recommend that the Sultan should open a port or ports in the southern districts of his Empire, for it is to be expected that when facilities are thus afforded to commerce, traders, both native and foreign, will prefer to bring their goods in safety to a port where properly constituted authorities, both Moorish and foreign, reside, than to a site where they may be exposed at any time to be plundered by the tribes without the hope of obtaining redress; and I may add that, when such a port or ports are opened, it is probable that Mackenzie or the North African Company will find it an unprofitable business to remain at Tarfaya for the purposes of trade.

I shall transmit to Her Majesty's Government a translation of your letter and of my reply, and I shall request to be informed whether they may be disposed to receive a Commissioner, sent by the Sultan, to discuss and settle, if possible, this vexed question.

Until I receive their reply, though I am convinced that it is the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to uphold the integrity of the Sultan's dominions, it will be a very delicate and difficult task for me to express any further opinion than those contained in the present communication. Peace.

(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

P.S.—Look at the map, copied by Cid Mohamed Gebbas, with the Arabic names of the districts and sites mentioned. Tekna included, for confirmation of all I have stated.

I observe in a book containing information regarding sites which might be suitable for ports on the southern coast that of Wad Draa, which is south of Assaka.

J. H. D. H.

No. 221.

Consul Dupuis to Earl Granville.—(Received December 30.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord,

Teneriffe, December 14, 1882.

IN doing myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Lister's despatch No. 1, Slave Trade, dated the 24th ultimo, instructing me not to take any steps in regard to the North-Western African Company at Cape Juby without express orders from the Foreign Office, I beg leave to forward to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copy of a letter I have just received from Mr. Mackenzie, the resident manager of that Company, objecting to the projected occupation, by the Spanish Government, of Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 20 of the 21st ultimo, on the grounds

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that it will not only cause much harm to the interests of the Company, but that the step is prompted through jealousy, and asking me to bring the matter to the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

I have not been able to communicate with Mr. Mackenzie, owing to the shortness of the stay here of the mail-steamer, nor have I taken any steps in the affair beyond bringing it to the knowledge of your Lordship; but if I may be permitted to venture an opinion as regards the projected occupation of Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña, I should, while admitting the misfortune of a rival Company setting itself up in such close proximity to Cape Juby, and in believing that motives of jealousy may have led to this step being taken, still be inclined to doubt whether Her Majesty's Government could properly interfere to prevent the contemplated occupation, seeing that Spain holds it by Treaty right, and that if she did not choose to take possession of it at the time can be no affair of the British Government.

I may here add that the expedition for Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña, which is still here, is, I am informed, waiting definite instructions from the Home Government, as well as further reinforcements, and that, meanwhile, a consignment of about 1,000 Remington rifles arrived by the last steamer from Cadiz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

P.S.—I hope I may be set right if I have taken a wrong view of this question.
J. H. D.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Mr. Mackenzie to Consul Dupuis.

My dear Sir,

"Corisco," Tenerife, December 14, 1822.

I BEG to inform you that I am on my way to England. I hoped to have been able to pay you a visit before my departure, but we are in quarantine.

I am informed that there is an expedition in your port for Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña. This place being only 35 miles north of Cape Juby, they should be prevented from coming so near our settlement.

I shall report the matter to our Government, should the Spanish Government make a settlement at Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña. It will do us much harm at Cape Juby.

Will you kindly favour me by reporting to our Government officially regarding the Spanish expedition, making any remarks you may think favourable to us at the same time. This move on the part of the Spanish Government is only caused through jealousy of what we are doing at Cape Juby. The Treaty which authorizes them to take this step was made in 1860, and it is only within the last four years that they have taken any action in the matter.

Trusting that you will do all you can in our favour, yours, &c.
(Signed) DONALD MACKENZIE.